

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

Agenda

Monday, 15th September, 2025 at 2.00 pm

in the

Council Chamber Town Hall Saturday Market Place King's Lynn

Available for the public to view on https://www.youtube.com/user/WestNorfolkBC



Kings Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX Telephone: 01553 616200

5th September 2025

Dear Member

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

You are invited to attend a meeting of the above-mentioned Committee which will be held on Monday, 15th September, 2025 at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn, PE30 5DQ to discuss the business shown below.

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes (Pages 5 - 19)

The Committee is invited to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting.

3. Matters Arising

To consider any matters arising.

4. Declarations of Interest (Page 20)

Please indicate if there are any interests which should be declared. A declaration of interest should indicate the nature of the interest (if not already declared on the Register of Interests) and the agenda item to which it relates. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared, the Member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

These declarations apply to all Members present, whether the Member is part of the meeting, attending to speak as a local Member on an item or simply

observing the meeting from the public seating area.

- 5. Report of the Assistant Head of Museums (Pages 21 37)
- **6.** True's Yard Report (Pages 38 40)
- 7. Stories of Lynn and Tourist Information Centre Visitor Figures (Page 41)
- 8. <u>Updates on Local Government Reorganisation</u>
- 9. Items for the next Agenda

To consider any additional items for the next Agenda.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee is scheduled to take place on 12th January 2026 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, King's Lynn.

To:

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee:

Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Councillors Bland, Bubb, Lintern, de Whalley and Kemp

Norfolk County Council

Councillors Bambridge and Chenery (3 vacancies)

Ex Officio

Councillor Ward (Chair, Norfolk Joint Museums Committee)
Councillor Kybird (Vice Chair, Norfolk Joint Museums Committee)

Co-opted Non-Voting Members

Ms Lindsey Bavin, True's Yard Heritage Museum Manager

Officers

Dr Robin Hanley, Assistant Head of Museums Oliver Bone, Curator of the Lynn Museum Mr Steve Miller, Head of Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service Mr Laine Tisdall, Committee Officer at Norfolk County Council

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

Minutes from the Meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee held on Monday, 16th June, 2025 at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT:

Borough Councillors

Councillors Bubb, de Whalley, and Kemp

County Councillors

Councillors Bambridge and Chenery of Horsbrugh

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

Councillor Kybird – Norfolk Joint Museums Committee

Officers

Oliver Bone – Lynn Museum Robin Hanley – Norfolk Museum Service Tim FitzHigham – Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Portfolio Holder

Councillor Lintern – Portfolio Holder for Culture and Events

1 <u>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025 TO 2026</u>

RESOLVED: Councillor Bubb was appointed Chair for the Municipal Year 2025 to 2026.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025 TO 2026

In the absence of nominees from the Norfolk County Council representatives coming forward, the Committee appointed a Borough Council representative as Vice Chair.

RESOLVED: Councillor Kemp was appointed Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2025 to 2026.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillor Bland, Mr Davison, Councillor Ward, Norfolk Joint Museums Committee and Lindsey Bavin, Manager of True's Yard Museum.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 March 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

5 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

6 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

County Councillor Bambridge declared an interest in item 8 as she was a Trustee of True's Yard Museum.

7 REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT HEAD OF MUSEUMS

Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube

The Curator of the Lynn Museum introduced the report on the King's Lynn Museum activities in the period from March to May 2025. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the following areas of the report:

- 1) Exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum
 - 1.1 Current Exhibition Woof: A Celebration of Dogs
 - **1.2** Forthcoming Exhibition May the Toys Be with You
 - 1.3 Family events
 - 1.4 Family Trails
 - 1.5 Mini Museum
 - 1.6 Coffee Mornings
 - **1.8** Warm Wednesdays
 - 1.9 Pewter Workshop
 - 1.10 National Lottery Open Week
 - **1.11** Forthcoming events

The Curator of the Lynn Museum invited questions from the Committee in relation to those areas of the report, as summarised below.

The Chair, Councillor Bubb referred to the Warm Wednesdays and asked what heat source was used in the Lynn Museum. The Curator

of the Lynn Museum explained they had gas boilers which provided a wet central heating system within the Museum.

The Chair, Councillor Bubb raised a further question and asked if there was any scope for putting any solar panels on the roof of the Lynn Museum. The Assistant Head of Museums explained it would be difficult to install solar panels on the roof of the Lynn Museum as it was a Grade 2 Listed Building.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Kemp referred to the Borough Council's scheme around decarbonising public buildings and asked whether air source heat pumps could be installed to the perimeter of the Lynn Museum. The Assistant Head of Museums explained the space was not managed or controlled by them and did not think it was realistically possible. In terms of decarbonisation, the Assistant Head of Museums explained that over the years they had replaced the gallery lighting with LED lighting.

The Committee's attention was drawn further to the following areas of the report:

- 2) Newman Legacy project
- 3) Other Museums developments
- **3.1** Publicity and promotion
- 3.2 NMS Teaching Museum Trainees
- 3.3 Retail offer at Lynn Museum
- **3.4** Object Photography
- 3.5 Volunteers
- **3.6** Baines Publication
- 3.7 Study visit to see the Lynn Museum's doll collection
- **3.8** Finds Identification and Recording Day

Councillor de Whalley referred to the Newman Legacy project and asked how many more records there were to update and how much longer the project would take. The Curator of the Lynn Museum confirmed the Aikman's Yard collections facility was progressing well and added that a number of rooms had been done. The Curator of the Lynn Museum commented that he would find out the precise figure and share with the Committee after the meeting.

Councillor de Whalley raised a further question and asked if they were looking at ways to making the Aikman's Yard stored assets more accessible. The Curator of the Lynn Museum explained they were looking at including more of the artwork at the Town Hall in King's Lynn to ensure there was more on public display and added they were looking at other creative ways to have more on display.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Events, Councillor Lintern advised that following a meeting, they were looking to set up a Working Group to look at that specific area.

The Assistant Head of Museums added that they were exploring more opportunities in terms of other venues where there was the appropriate level of security and environment to make collections more accessible. He advised the team were working on plans for an exhibition next year at the Lynn Museum to celebrate the work that had been going on down at Aikman's Yard.

The Chair, Councillor Bubb asked if it was possible to consider opening Aikman's Yard to the public. The Assistant Head of Museums advised there were challenges around that building in terms of making it suitable for public access particularly because of fire restrictions. He added that the Norfolk collection centre which was housed at Gressenhall had larger objects from across the service including material from King's Lynn that was available for the public to view.

In response to questions from the Vice Chair, Councillor Kemp, the Assistant Head of Museums advised there was a lot of material that whilst significant in terms of King's Lynn heritage and of value to researchers, would not necessarily lend themselves to public display. The Assistant Head of Museums explained there was no other space in the Lynn Museum to store collections from Aikman's Yard.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Events, Councillor Lintern commented that the discussions around the collections at Aikman's Yard would be addressed through the new Working Group and would hopefully provide some answers in the forthcoming months.

The Chair, Councillor Bubb asked if they had found anything exciting from the Finds Identification and Recording Day. The Curator of the Lynn Museum explained that previously someone had brought in a Bronze Age gold torc which was one of the best enquiries they had received.

The Committee's attention was drawn further to the following areas of the report:

- 4) Borough Council partnership working
- 5) Learning & Outreach

Councillor Kybird referred to Norfolk County Council's proposal for a single unitary and asked how they would be addressing the service level agreements. The Assistant Head of Museums explained that at this stage, they did not have the information but commented that King's Lynn had worked really closely with District Councils as a joint service and over the years the service level agreement in King's Lynn had been very effective.

Councillor de Whalley asked how challenging it was to ensure the content was compatible with the curriculum and syllabus and whether it was becoming more challenging to engage with schools. The Assistant Head of Museums commented that NMS had a good track

record of maintaining and developing engagement with schools and sustaining numbers of school visits. The learning teams across NMS were effective at working with local teachers to continually review and re-evaluate the programmes which were being offered. He added they also offered small bursaries to help schools with transport costs.

The Assistant Head of Museums provided an update on the Kick the Dust project.

In response to a question from Councillor de Whalley, the Assistant Head of Museums explained they were pulling together a programme to track young people who had reached the age of 25 to stay with Kick the Dust to provide mentoring and buddying support to other younger people.

County Councillor Chenery of Horsbrugh asked if they had linked into the Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust. The Assistant Head of Museums commented that with the new project coordinator coming in, this would be a good opportunity to develop those links with the Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust.

In response to a question from the Vice Chair, Councillor Kemp, the Assistant Head of Museums confirmed he would see if a theme around the future of Local Government would be something the project team would be interested in taking forward.

The visitor figures were circulated to the Committee at the meeting and were noted. A copy of the visitor figures is attached to the minutes.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the report.

8 TRUE'S YARD REPORT

Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube

County Councillor Bambridge commented that they currently had four part time staff but advised that it run very well and had lots of activities going on.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the report.

9 <u>STORIES OF LYNN AND TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE</u> VISITOR FIGURES

The visitor figures for the period March to May 2025 were noted. A copy of the visitor figures is attached to the minutes.

10 **UPDATE ON THE GUILDHALL**

Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube

The Borough Council's Cultural Officer, Tim FitzHigham presented the item and provided the Committee with an update on the Guildhall. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

In response to a question from County Councillor Chenery of Horsbrugh, the Cultural Officer explained there was very little biographical information about Shakespeare but there was far more evidence that Shakespeare was in King's Lynn in the 1590s.

County Councillor Bambridge asked what the timescales were to finish the works on the Guildhall. The Cultural Officer was continuing to engage with their neighbours and hoped to finish in 2027.

In response to comments and questions from Councillor de Whalley, the Cultural Officer confirmed he would try to find a place within the Guildhall to present the plaque from the College of West Anglia of the George and the Dragon. In terms of solar panels, these were looking to be placed on the south facing roof of the White Barn and confirmed you would not see them from the main courtyard.

The Committee thanked the Cultural Officer for his enthusiasm and work on the project.

11 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

There were none identified at the meeting.

12 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee was scheduled to take place on 15th September 2025 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn.

The meeting closed at 3.57 pm



If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Robin Hanley on 01603 493663 and we will do our best to help

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

16 June 2025

Item No.

KING'S LYNN MUSEUMS REPORT

Report by the Assistant Head of Museums

This report provides information on King's Lynn Museum activities in the period from March to May 2025

- 1 Exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum
- 1.1 Current Exhibition *Woof: A Celebration of Dogs* Tuesday 1 October 2024 Sunday 29 June 2025



Woof: A Celebration of Dogs exhibition opened at Lynn Museum on Tuesday 1 October. This show has been curated in-house drawing upon natural history, archaeology, art and social history collections. The majority of the items exhibited are from the Lynn Museum reserve collection, supplemented with internal loans from Gressenhall, Norwich Castle and the Norfolk Costume and Textile collections, from national collections and from private individuals. The Tate Gallery has loaned three artworks for the exhibition, including pieces by David Hockney and Sir Edwin Landseer. The Kennel Club has loaned England Expects, a painting by Maud Earl of two Toy Bulldogs, an extinct breed.



England Expects, a painting of two Toy Bulldogs by Maud Earl on loan to Lynn Museum from the Kennel Club

The exhibition is aimed at a family audience with themes including:

- Origins of the dog a natural history focus, featuring a taxidermy wolf and dog skull.
- Early dogs archaeological collections including a Roman gold ring with blue glass intaglio and an Egyptian painted panel.
- Working like a dog dogs as working and competing animals.
- Canine companions domesticated dogs.

The exhibition has generated some helpful publicity. Below are links to features about *Woof:*

Woof: A Celebration of Dogs - Lynn Museum - Norfolk Museums Service
Woof! Norfolk exhibition celebrates dogs in art and history - BBC News
Woof in King's Lynn - Art History News - by Bendor Grosvenor
BBC Radio Norfolk - BBC Radio Norfolk, Woof: Celebrating dogs through the ages

1.2 Forthcoming exhibition

May the Toys Be with You 11 July 2025 - 31 May 2026



The next exhibition at Lynn Museum, opening in July, will be *May the Toys be with You*. The exhibition showcases one of the UK's finest collections of vintage Star Wars toys and original cinema posters from 1977-1985. It is a celebration of the now highly collectable vintage toy line and of the iconic design work and art of the Star Wars movies. This exhibition will open at Lynn Museum on 11 July and run until 31 May 2026.

The exhibition is aimed at developing audiences and is an opportunity to showcase aspects of the Lynn Museum collections including toys and games.

1.3 Family events

The museum continues to offer events and regular family trails during holiday periods. On the 29 May, the nautical themed *Ahoy Captain!* event attracted 57 Children, 4 under 4s and a total of 88 visitors.

1.4 Family Trails

Trails are provided at the museum for children and families to enjoy an exploration of the museum. The Easter holiday trail offered at the Lynn Museum in the reporting period, *Egg-cellent Easter Eggs* (05/04/25 - 22/04/25) was accessed by 93 visitors.

1.5 Mini Museum

Lynn Museum continues to provide regular activities for our youngest visitors through the monthly mini museum programme. Activities are delivered by the museum's learning team. These have included:

- Pets (20/03/2025) with an audience of 15 children and 28 participants in total.
- Easter Chocolate eggs (17/04/2025) with an audience of 13 children and 26 participants in total
- All at Sea (15/05/2025) with an audience of 22 children and 36 participants in total.





1.6 Coffee Mornings

The monthly themed coffee mornings continue to be offered at Lynn Museum, normally attended by about 15 – 30 people. During the reporting period there

have been three coffee morning with themes of 'Wartime', 'Romans' and 'Hanse'.



1.7 Talks Programme

The Museum normally receive audiences of around 20-30 people for the Friday afternoon talks.

- Dogs at War (28/03/2025) with Nigel Amies which received an audience of 26.
- The Fortunes of the Port of Kings Lynn since 1300 (25/04/2025) by Paul Richards which received an audience of 24.
- Promoting the Dog through Photography (30/05/2025) by Heidi Hudson of the Kennel Club which received an audience of 15.



1.8 Warm Wednesdays



As part of a countywide initiative to support public health over the winter period, Lynn Museum offered Warm Wednesday sessions for people to find a welcoming space to socialise through the winter months.

1.9 Pewter Workshop

On the 10 May Lynn Museum offered a pewter workshop for adults with an audience of 10 adults.

1.10 National Lottery Open Week



On the 15 March as part of National Lottery Open Week, 22 visitors enjoyed an Introduction to Seahenge Tour led by Beth Kierman. This event promotes the National Lottery Heritage Fund, a key partner for Norfolk Museums Service.

1.11 Forthcoming events

Forthcoming events for Lynn Museum may be seen here: What's on at Lynn Museum - Lynn Museum - Norfolk Museums Service

2 Newman Legacy project

As previously reported, the Lynn Museum has benefited from a legacy given specifically for the museum's use provided by the late Eric and Rita Newman. The Newmans were siblings who had retired to Congham near King's Lynn with interests in local history and helping children learn. Norfolk Museums Service is very grateful for the Newmans' generosity.

Newman Assistant Curator Jan Summerfield and Newman NMS Teaching Museum Trainee Alice (2024-2025) and Newman Museum Trainee Ros (2025-2026) have been working on the cataloguing and documenting material in the museum stores, as part of a planned programme of collections management work supported by the Newman legacy. To date 15,055 records on the museum's MODES catalogue database have been updated.

3 Other Museum developments

3.1 Publicity and promotion

The Lynn Museum continues to develop its social media presence, with Twitter and Facebook and now Instagram accounts being actively used and

maintained by staff. The museum's X (Twitter), Facebook and Instagram accounts may be seen here:

<u>Lynn Museum (@Lynn_Museum) / X (twitter.com)</u> Facebook

King's Lynn Museum on Instagram • Photos and videos

As well as digital delivery, the museum has maintained strong links with local media outlets including the *Lynn News*. Staff continue to contribute to a fortnightly *Picture This* column, with a focus on local drawings, engravings and paintings.

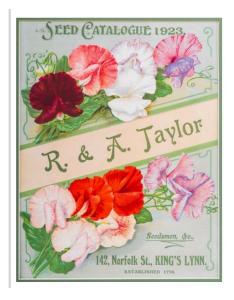
A variety of films linked to Lynn Museum are available on the museum's You Tube Channel, here: Lynn Museum - YouTube

A number of online exhibitions are available through the Google Arts and Culture platform: <u>Lynn Museum, King's Lynn, United Kingdom — Google Arts & Culture</u>

3.2 NMS Teaching Museum Trainees

One year-long paid traineeships are offered as part of the Norfolk Museums Service Teaching Museum scheme, principally funded through the NMS Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation programme. For 2024-25 we have had Newman Teaching Museum Trainee, Alice Ochocka working on the Newman collections project at the museum. We also have the Curatorial West Trainee working at both Thetford and Lynn Museums, Anna Heffron. Both Anna and Alice have made valuable contributions to the work of the museums service.

Following the end of their traineeships in April, Alice is now working for the British Museum at their store near Reading and Anna is working at Ancient House Museum, Thetford on the Lottery-funded Prince Frederick's Thetford Museum project.



3.3 Retail offer at Lynn Museum

The museum team continues to develop the retail offer at Lynn Museum working with the NMS Retail Manager Hat Johnson. A recent project has been to develop a range of cards and other merchandise using designs from the Taylors seed shop business of King's Lynn.

Taylors seed catalogue from 1923

3.4 Object Photography

In March staff at Lynn Museum spent a second day working with photographer David Kirkham to take new pictures of items on display in the main gallery at the museum. These images will be shared through the Norfolk Collections website, social media, museum website and in other ways as part of the work to engage with the public with collections knowledge.



New photograph of a souvenir cup and saucer with transfer print of Hunstanton (above) from the collections on display in Lynn Museum.

The Museum's MODES catalogue record (right) now includes this new photograph.







Above are new photographs of 19th century Rush trial ceramics (left) and a medieval bone counter (right) found in the 1966 archaeological excavations in King's Lynn at All Saints Street. Images from of an object photography session of display objects taken in early March.

The Norfolk Museums collections site may be seen here:

Norfolk Museums Collections - Museums Collections - Norfolk Museums

Service

3.5 Volunteers

Four collections volunteers have now completed a 12-week programme to scan paper collections and add information and images to the Modes database supervised by NMS staff. The volunteers met in the museum offices at the Town Hall on Wednesday mornings from January to April.



3.6 Baines Publication

(Left) Example of information supplied for the museum catalogue by Dr Stevenson using the information from the Norfolk Collections website.

The Museum team is currently working with Dr Michael Stevenson on a project about King's Lynnborn Thomas Baines. Dr Stevenson is creating a complete record of the artist's work for publication. He wrote to

us from South Africa to say he is "very thrilled to see how much material you have now online, and in the last few days I worked through the 1600-odd items tagged Baines." Dr Stevenson has supplied us with helpful comments, corrections and updates for the museum records which have proved very valuable. The online catalogue of Baines pictures is thanks to the work of the Lynn Museum volunteers who have scanned the collection of drawings and other art work.

3.7 Study visit to see the Lynn Museum's doll collection.

In April, staff facilitated a visit from a group interested in the museum's doll collection led by former Christie's Head of Dolls and Toys, Olivia Bristol. This was an opportunity to learn from specialists and update the museum's records.

Group visit to see the museum's doll and toy collection. On the table is a rare paper doll from the 1820s.



3.8 Finds Identification and Recording Day



Lynn Museum continues to offer finds identification and recording days in partnership with Norfolk County Council's Finds Identification and Recording Service. Two days a year are offered, one in March and one in October. These days offer a valuable chance for the NCC Finds team to connect with finders of archaeological material. Significant material can then be recorded for the county database.

4 Borough Council partnership working

The delivery of NMS services in King's Lynn & West Norfolk continues to operate under the terms of the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Borough Council. Under an extension to this agreement, NMS continues to provide curatorial and conservation advice, support and an enquiry service for those Borough collections currently held in the Town Hall including fine art and Civic Regalia.

NMS staff continue to support Borough Council colleagues with the development and delivery of relevant cultural and heritage projects across the Borough, including ongoing support for Towns Fund projects including the Guildhall project. A number of NMS staff support the ongoing work of the Guildhall project team and NMS is also represented on the Guildhall Project Board.

Newman Curator, Dayna Woolbright, has contributed to the work on the St George's Guildhall project Interpretation Strategy and to various events and exhibitions, working with Jane Hamilton Learning and Engagement Officer in the Guildhall Team. Currently Dayna is supporting the interpretation work in liaison with design and display contractors PLB Ltd and is writing information for pull up banners.

Norfolk Museums Service continues to support the Borough Council with the delivery of the NLHF-funded Stories of Lynn project focussed on King's Lynn Town Hall. NMS manages the Stories of Lynn Learning & Engagement Officer post, which is co-funded by the Borough Council and the NLHF Kick the Dust:

Norfolk project. Elizabeth Joisce, the postholder is currently on maternity leave and Holly Spidy is her maternity cover.

A recent project at Stories has been the curation of an exhibition to mark the centenary of Florence Ada Coxon's time as King's Lynn's first Lady Mayor. Dayna Woolbright has been working with colleagues at the Town Hall to look back at Florence Ada Coxon and also to celebrate the contributions of women leaders in the Borough in 2025. This display and associated activities in March linked with International Women's Day on 8 March.



Display at Stories of Lynn featuring the contributions of Florence Ada Coxon and other women leaders in the Borough.

King's Lynn-based staff have worked with Kate Thaxton, Curator of the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum and Sam Wiggin, NMS Teaching Museum Trainee on an exhibition at Stories of Lynn to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ Day.



His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester with Norfolk Museums Service Curator, Kate Thaxton at the opening of the 'Surviving the Railway' exhibition at Stories of Lynn.

On Friday 21 March His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, was welcomed to Stories of Lynn, based next to King's Lynn Town Hall, to open a new exhibition, *Surviving the Railway: Memories of Far East Prisoners of War*. The exhibition marks the 80th anniversary of VJ Day on 15 August this year.

His Royal Highness was shown round the 'Surviving the Railway' exhibition in the company of Kate Thaxton, Curator of the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum and Mr Charles Barratt, DL, the Chairman of the Far East Prisoners of War. The display explores the experiences and legacy of Royal Norfolk Regiment soldiers who became prisoners of war following the fall of Singapore in 1942 and were subsequently put to work on the notorious Thai-Burma railway, otherwise known as the 'Railway of Death'. Among the objects and photographs shown to His Royal Highness was a new Roll of Honour, commemorating all who served in the Far East in the 4th, 5th and 6th battalions of the Royal Norfolk Regiment.

For further information and photographs please follow this link:

<u>His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester visits new exhibition in King's Lynn | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk</u>

NMS Newman Curator, Dayna Woolbright continues to support the Borough Council on collections management advice and support. A recent example was the protection of artwork in the Town Hall for a recent planning committee meeting.

The Lynn Museum's current free admission period runs from 1 October 2024 until the end of March 2025. This free admission period is provided under the terms of the Service Level Agreement between the Borough Council and NMS. From April – September, there is an admission charge of £6.30 for adults, £5.30 for children. Details can be seen here: Lynn Museum admission prices - Lynn Museum - Norfolk Museums Service



Norfolk Museums Pass

The Museums Service continues to offer the Norfolk Museums Pass which offers free admission all 10 Norfolk Museums locations for a whole year.

5 Learning & Outreach

School visits

Lynn Museum continues to offer a range of school workshops run flexibly to accommodate different teachers' needs. Typical sessions include the Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Romans and Iceni, Bronze Age and Seahenge, Stone Age, the Second World War, Ancient Egyptians, and Homes Long Ago.

School sessions normally follow a pattern of a carousel of different activities with children learning in a variety of styles. Delivery of sessions is normally undertaken by a mix of museum staff and freelance costumed interpreters.

The following link for teachers explains what is on offer at Lynn Museum for pupils at Key Stage 2.

Key stage 2 education at Lynn Museum - Norfolk Museums

Lynn Museum learning staff continue to work closely with Stories of Lynn in the running of joint school workshops on topics such as Maritime Life, Lord Nelson, Captain Vancouver, Crime and Punishment, Frederick Savage and the Lynn Mart, the Great Fire of London and Floods and Flooding.

6 Kick the Dust update

Following the successful conclusion of the National Lottery Heritage Fund funded 'Kick the Dust' project, Norfolk Museums Service (NMS) secured additional funding through an Arts Council England NPO Uplift award for the period 2023-27. This funding is 'place' focused targeting young people in Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Thetford, in partnership with organisations working with vulnerable young people aged 13-25 years.

This additional funding will enable young people to participate in high quality cultural and heritage activities that develop their creative and digital skills and potential, as well as prepare them for the workplace.

During the period 2023-26 NMS is also receiving funding from Norfolk County Council (NCC) Public Health to support 'Kick the Dust' activities that focus on the mental health and wellbeing of Norfolk young people.

NMS is partnering with Norfolk Library & Information Service (NLIS) to deliver this exciting programme of activity strengthening partnership working between museum and library staff, increasing levels of cultural engagement by young people in a sustained way, through the successful 'Kick the Dust' approach to youth engagement that uses the three-stage progression model of '*Player-Shaper-Leader*'. The programme is aimed at those in the three priority places aged 16-25 years, with opportunities for 13–16 year-olds to engage as part of the progression framework.

The key aims of the new 'Kick the Dust' project continue to be to:

- develop transferable work-related skills with the aim of supporting more working age young people into employment, training or further learning;
- develop digital skills linked to creative industries to address the digital skills gap in heritage and cultural sectors;
- increase young people's creative skills and for young people to gain a range of new cultural experiences;
- encourage an appreciation of the history and culture of their local communities;

 to measure impact on young people's skills, confidence and mental health and wellbeing through a strong and robust evaluation framework.

Young people work alongside professionals to develop their transferable work-related and creative skills, through the co-production of activity and events, volunteering and work experience operating at a level that meets their needs. Feedback from young people shows that they value the skills they develop as part of the project with the top 5 skills being cited as: problem solving, digital, communication, team working and creativity.

Participation numbers:

Since the start of the ACE funded "Kick the Dust" project (June 2023) there has been:

- 4.297 interventions
- 1,467 individual young people
- 2,724 hours of quality activity.
- 97% of the activities were face to face, the other sessions being offered online with young people in the principal target areas.

Participation between October 2018 and April 2025:

- 5,993 young people engaged in 18,050 interventions
- 9,793 hours of high-quality activities delivered across Norfolk
- 74% of all activity designed and led by young people
- Youth Board established for 18-25 yr olds with 12 Youth Ambassadors operating at strategic level

This blended approach offers a wider range of opportunities for young people to engage in heritage:

- 19% of activity was at Player level (to introduce new young people to the project)
- 59% at Shaper level (longer term project with young people determining the content)
- 23% at Leader level (long term engagement young people leading projects, acting at governance level, mentoring staff)
- 73% of all activity involves young people in leading and designing projects

Breakdown of activity taking place in each area:

- 25% (187 opportunities) in Kings Lynn, (including Gressenhall),
- 27% (201 opportunities) in Thetford
- 21% (158 opportunities) in the East (covering Great Yarmouth, Cromer)
- 24% (175 opportunities) in Norwich
- 3% (17 opportunities) outside of area and 4 other opportunities for our online work experience programme targeted at Thetford and Kings Lynn young people.
- 77 volunteering opportunities have been provided, with 3 young people taking on the role of Project Assistant and 12 as a Young Ambassador.

 Of all delivery, 80% involves young people being part of a long-term group, providing them with a deeper understanding of heritage and allowing them to explore their identity, develop their skills and confidence and embed themselves more in their local communities, a key aim of ACE.

The young people have access to all of NMS sites and can visit with a friend or family member for free during their engagement for that year, using the free pass which forms part of the 'Kick the Dust' offer.

We continue to deliver a blended training offer for all staff and volunteers who support youth engagement in NMS. Staff input to the training programme will be formulated as the project progresses and needs are identified. YMCA Norfolk will deliver the Mental Health First Aid training September and October as an accredited course and the Mentoring and Coaching course in November 2025. All of the Kick the Dust team have undertaken training in Arts Award to add additional value to the programme enabling young people who have limited experience of gaining a qualification in arts to achieve.

Our offer to support young people around the important theme of mental health and wellbeing is on-going and is now measured through the evaluation framework using data from the young people's feedback forms as well as narrative evaluation the results of which form part of this report. Working with colleagues in NCC Public Health and NCC Performance and Governance teams we have been able to interrogate the data around impact on mental wellbeing and match this to the interviews with the young people engaged in the narrative evaluation programme. The data shows that 33% of individual young people who have taken part in 'Kick the Dust' identify as having a mental health issue showing the need for this programme, although this continues to slowly decrease as young people engage more with the programme. A further 9% identify as having a physical disability which requires additional support for them to access the programme. Through a systematic approach to evaluation, in partnership with Norfolk Library and Information Service, the team can demonstrate the impact on mental health on those talking part and the young people can monitor their progress through the programme in relation to skills, confidence and mental health.

NMS and NCC continue to work together through the 'Making Creative Futures' group, chaired by the 'Kick the Dust' Project Coordinator, where members from across Children's Services and Norfolk Public Health identify ways to engage the hardest to reach and most vulnerable children and young people. The focus is on mental health and wellbeing and accessibility for young people facing multiple barriers to engagement. This group acts as the vehicle to share best practice, ideas and resources.

Target audiences: (some young people fall into more than one category) as of 22/4/25

- FE/HE 34%
- YMCA clients 10%
- Secondary schools 27%
- Young people with mental health issues 33%
- SEND 12%

- Outside of mainstream education 26%
- NEET 27%
- Looked after children and adopted living those at home 3%
- Care Leavers 2%
- Young Carers 2%
- New arrivals and refugees 4%
- Pregnant young mums and teenage parents 0%
- Other groups 24%

In terms of how young people find out about 'Kick the Dust', the 'Kick the Dust' website is being used effectively with 26% of young people finding out about the project through the updated web pages ('Kick the Dust' - Norfolk Museums) and 15% through social media posts; 23% through a family member or friend, 30% coming via one of our partner organisations and 20% having already taken part in a previous 'Kick the Dust' project. As more young people join having taken part in a previous 'Kick the Dust' project this is impacting on questions relating to knowledge and understanding of heritage and job roles within NMS with 66% stating that they are aware of different job roles in NMS ahead of starting a new project although on reflection following their engagement this rises to 88%.

As young people move through 'Kick the Dust' the impacts on their confidence and mental health and wellbeing increases. 13% of all young people have been part of 'Kick the Dust' since May 2023, 8% for 6 months to a year, 28% for 3-6 months and 51% under 3 months.

Impacts on mental health and well being

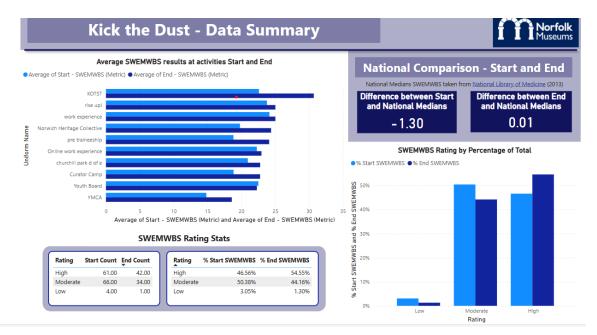
The new young people's feedback form includes the 78 positively worded items from the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being scale for assessing a populations' mental well-being.

From the Young People feedback forms, following their involvement in 'Kick the Dust', 85% strongly agreed that this had had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing. An additional question has been added to identify young people with neurodivergent tendencies and is showing that since March 48% of young people engaged in 'Kick the Dust' identify as neurodivergent which is significant when designing new activity in terms of additional barriers these young people may face.

The following graph highlights the impact on young people's mental health and wellbeing using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (SWEMWBS) from the responses given by the young people between June 2023 and January 2025 who completed Part 1 and Part 2 of the young people feedback forms. Part 1 is completed at the start of the programme and Part 2 at the end, following a one-to-one session with the Project Worker. Using a Dashboard, we can track progress and although this relates to a smaller number than those engaging in the programme, it provides a good benchmark for future delivery.

The graph shows the difference between Norfolk young people at the start and end of their engagement against the National Average (2013 research). At start our young people were -1.30 BELOW the National Average and at end they are +0.01 ABOVE the National average. This is based on 208 responses between September 2023 and March 2025.

Data to end March 2025 (based on 208 responses)



The graph shows more young people are in HIGH mental health bracket at end than at the start of their engagement which correlates to the data from the narrative evaluation with 85% stating that 'Kick the Dust' is having a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

Additional data shows that activities at Shaper level, where young people meet weekly and over a long period of time, give the most impact. In addition, the pre traineeship programme shows significant impact on those who have progressed through Kick the Dust onto this paid 10 hour a week for 10 week programme.

From the additional questions asked of the young people, the programme continues to meet their needs and is helping them see themselves in a museum or heritage setting. 88% state the programme had gone above their expectations and 100% state they felt welcomed and respected by staff and volunteers.

The following percentages are for those strongly agreeing or agreeing with each statement. Unless stated otherwise, the remaining percentage for each question answered fell into the 'neither agreed nor disagreed' response for each statement.

- 100% of all young people strongly agreed that the museum was a safe space for young people like themselves who were struggling;
- 98% strongly agreed they were given a voice that was listened to (2% said they were but only some of the time);
- 81% strongly agreed that they understood heritage better than they had done before taking part
- 80% strongly agreed that following their engagement heritage was more relevant
- 68% strongly agreed that heritage represented young people like themselves;

- 88% stated they now had a greater understanding of museums and the
 job roles available with 82% strongly agreeing that they felt there were
 jobs for them in the sector (only 2% disagreed);
- 87% strongly agreed that the skills they had acquired would be useful to them in the future (2% disagreed);
- 78% strongly agreed they felt more connected to their local community than previously, which is one of the aims of the project (6% disagreed);
- 56% agreed that their involvement had helped them to explore and feel more connected to their own identity and heritage (9% disagreed);
- 85% stated they were now more likely to volunteer (5% disagreed).

Summary

'Kick the Dust' is a three-stage journey, with young people developing transferable work-related skills including digital skills and gaining experiences that they would struggle to find elsewhere, to support them in securing employment. Whilst young people cite being involved in curation and creating exhibitions as the main areas they have enjoyed, it is through these activities that they hone their skills and understanding of the workplace, which will help them secure employment longer term.

Our aim as we move forward is to support more working age young people to progress into employment, training, or further learning and long-term volunteering.

The strong partnerships that have been developed through 'Kick the Dust' provide a strong base on which to build, bringing new young people into museum and library spaces.

Success comes in many guises. Former participants and Young Ambassadors have since progressed into employment or onto further and higher education, having gained the confidence to move towards their goals. One of our former YMCA young people and 'Kick the Dust' trainees has progressed onto an Access Course at Norwich College with a view to applying for university in 2025.

"Kick the Dust' has played such a key part in my life and helped me secure employment when most doors were closed to me, giving me the skills and confidence to move forward. It is like being part of a family'. 'I have now been offered a place on an access course to help me realise my dream of going to university next year" Jazz, Youth Ambassador

Another former YMCA young person and 'Kick the Dust' trainee has secured a full-time permanent position in the Norwich Visitor Services team. Both young people cite 'Kick the Dust' for giving them the confidence to take these steps. Two of our online work experience members have progressed into a heritage related position out of area stating that the opportunity to gain additional heritage related experience had made a difference to their confidence in interview.

'Through KTD and what I've learnt along the way since, the opportunity massively helped with my self-confidence, self-worth, enjoyment in my day to day life and also in my professional development.' Millie former trainee and now NMS staff member

Our recent trainee who followed the 10 hour a week pre-traineeship programme has successfully completed this and secured a Learning Assistant role at Ancient House Museum saying:

'Working with the learning team at Norwich Castle was so fulfilling and has confirmed the passion I feel around museums. Thanks to all the experience I've gained through my time at THC Youth Group, moving into becoming museum staff has felt like a natural progression, and it's made me realise that working in museums, and in particular museum learning teams, is something I seriously want to pursue moving forward.'

To support this young person going forward 'Kick the Dust' are piloting a structured paid placement one day per month over the next 10 months to hone his delivery skills.

7. Visitor figures

Visitor figures for the period will be circulated at the meeting

8. Recommendations:

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report

Report Contact:

Dr Robin Hanley

Assistant Head of Museums (Head of Service Delivery)

Shirehall, Market Avenue, Norwich NR1 3JQ

Tel: 01603 493663 e-mail: robin.hanley@norfolk.gov.uk

NORFOLK MUSEUM SERVICE Visitors by Museum and County Total

			APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	YEAR TO DATE	TOTAL
N O R W -		2023-24	13,471	9,922	10,889	12,590	15,391	10,647	11,597	7,256	6,079	6,031	8,576	10,031	23,393	122,480
	Castle Museum	2024-25	8,942	9,907	7,932	11,031	13,015	11,590	12,883	9,042	7,742	10,504	15,214	10,972	18.849	128,77
		2025-26	11,818	11,485											23,303	23,30
	Norwich Castle Study Centre	2023-24	106	53	126	92	101	75	63	79	178	58	150	118	159	1,19
		2024-25	119	213	130	161	32	21	57	19	33	0	0	7	332	79
		2025-26	0	0											0	
		2023-24	1,589	1,378	1,241	2,064	2,059	2,381	1,824	1,329	821	1,244	1,707	1,863	2,967	19,50
	Museum of Norwich	2024-25	1,666	1,603	1,754	1,837	1,983	2,055	1,820	1,359	1,144	986	1,273	1,192	3,269	18,67
С		2025-26	1,377	1,059											2,436	2,43
Н		2023-24	468	522	453	1,185	1,699	962	850	770	470	0	387	1,093	990	8,85
	Strangers Hall	2024-25	484	785	705	766	626	1,122	719	749	846	5	432	1,202	1,269	8,44
		2025-26	703	663											1,366	1,36
		2023-24	475	196	207	346	1,145	1,104	367	15	0	199	53	82	671	4,18
	Tolhouse Museum	2024-25	420	474	66	312	980	986	285	37	20	51	65	62	894	3,75
	4	2025-26	436	278											714	714
		2023-24	1,156	1,017	881	1,338	1,622	1,817	1,237	79	98	0	3	170	2,173	9,41
E	Elizabethan House Museum	2024-25	1,163	1,422	1,095	1,102	1,326	1,788	953	98	0	0	0	9	2,585	8,95
A	Elizabethan Floddo Maddalli	2025-26	831	957											1,788	1,78
S	Time and Tide	2023-24	2,451	2,235	2,508	3,083	3,350	3,701	2,502	2,053	1,773	1,498	1,907	2,582	4.686	29,64
Ť		2024-25	2,774	3,024	2,973	2,767	2,799	2,944	2,228	1,704	1,181	1,276	1,686	1,981	5,798	27,33
		2025-26	1,699	2,228											3,927	3,92
		2023-24	1,046	1,223	1,357	1,426	2,163	1,436	1,230	0	0	189	643	262	2,269	10,97
	Cromer Museum	2024-25	1,266	1,524	1,574	1,788	1,804	1,513	1,050	161	34	142	114	198	2,790	11,16
		2025-26	1,398	1,499											2,897	2,89
		2023-24	1,358	1,171	1,445	1,446	1,887	1,774	2,228	2,228	1,944	2,162	3,481	2,757	2,529	23,88
	Lynn Museum	2024-25	1,564	1,586	1,446	1,937	2,462	1,938	2,598	2,248	1,193	1,369	2,492	1,921	3,150	22,75
		2025-26	1,356	1,494											2,850	2,85
W	Ancient House Museum	2023-24	650	635	686	1,466	676	959	693	832	721	730	1,066	929	1.285	10,04
E S		2024-25	798	922	1,380	1,524	971	590	876	1,077	573	589	478	676	1,720	10,45
		2025-26	632	887							51100 1 185			-	1,519	1,51
Т		2023-24	5,840	4,363	7,648	4,788	6,653	5,768	5,408	1,585	1,245	206	646	5,760	10,203	49,91
	Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse	2024-25	5,744	5,831	9,679	5,496	6,273	5,931	5,269	1,989	733	204	841	5,329	11,575	53,31
		2025-26	6,545	5,591											12,136	12,13
-	Norfolk Exhibition Programmes	2023-24	263	883	568	130	360	1,395	523	274	204	30	228	159	1.146	5,01
		2024-25	0	281	362	376	56	12	18	338	167	104	338	164	281	2,21
		2025-26	260	254											514	51
,		2022-23	28,873	23,598	28,009	29,954	37,106	32,019	28,522	16,500	13,533	12,347	18,847	25,806	52,471	295,114
		2023-24	24,940	27,572	29,096	29,097	32,327	30,490	28,756		13,666	15,230	22,933	23,713	52,512	296,64
		2025-26	27,055	26,395											53,450	53,450
		TARGET													THE STUDIES STORE STORE	



TRUE'S YARD FISHERFOLK MUSEUM REPORT

Report by Museum Curator

June 2025

1. Temporary exhibitions and events at True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum

1.1 Exhibition Programme.

Exhibition Room: The History of the Timber Trade in King's Lynn launched on 13th February by Stuart Newman, the managing director of SETRA.

Old Smithy: Throughout June - 20th anniversary Exhibition: Discover Hanse. 4th July-30th August – Art in the Yard.

1.2 Summer Art Exhibition

Our annual art exhibition theme for 2025 the title will be 'Art at the Yard'. The official launch is 4th July by James Wild MP and run until 30th August. We will be inviting those connected to True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum including trustees, volunteers, vice presidents and students to submit work. The aim of this exhibition is to demonstrate that art is for all.

1.3 True's Talks

Our autumn programme will launch on 25th September and will run to 13th November. 8 talks all by local speakers. Subjects include medical care in WW1, Art and the Industrial Revolution, how museum exhibitions have evolved over time and more. All talks will take place on Thursdays between 1pm and 2pm. They remain free to attend and are being streamed online via Zoom, which can be booked via the Museum's TicketTailor page. https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thenorthendtrust

1.4 Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture

The speaker for the 11th Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture will be David Petts. Provisional date 13th November at King's Lynn Town Hall. Title TBC.

1.5 A Victorian Experience: North End Guided Walks Programme

We have relaunched our rebranded North End Guided Walks as 'A Victorian Experience' and we now have an online booking system for our walks. Tours on Wednesday and Friday 13:00-14:30. £5pp and include a hot drink.

Other Museum Developments

2. Events

June

5th June Launch of Discover Hanse Exhibition

14th June Hanse Festival

18th June Midsummer Dinner

July

4th July Art Exhibition Opening

6th July Sea Sunday

16th July to 3rd August Festival of Archaeology

August

10th August Alison's Fundraising Tea Party (Queen Street)

16th August Cold Meats and Salad (FOTY)

September

5th September Dr Anderson's Garden Party (King Street)

14th September Heritage Open Day

From 25th Sept True's Talks autumn series

October

28th October Halloween activities

November

4th November TYFM Dinner in Memories of Sailors and Fisherfolk at Duke's Head Hotel

13th Nov Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture at King's Lynn Town Hall

29th November Ghost Hunt

3. Fundraisers

3.1 The Mayor's Charity of the Year

We are grateful to the Mayor Cllr Paul Bland for his support and for selecting us alongside the King's Lynn Sea Cadets his 2024/25 chosen charities. The date for the presentation of funds raised is still TBC.

3.2 Friends of True's Yard

We are most fortunate to have an active and supportive Friends group. They have recently helped the Museum with funds towards are emergency electrical repairs and a new coffee machine.

4. Partnerships

4.1 Hanse Festival 20th Anniversary Celebration

We have worked with the Borough Council Tourism department and Steele Media on fringe events as part of the festival. Our primary contribution apart from the events listed below is an exhibition which will run throughout June titled 'Discover Hanse' charting the history of the town and the Hanseatic League. Formally launched by the Deputy Mayor on 6th June.

5. Learning and Outreach

5.1. Activities

Half Term Activity Days

Under the Sea Activities 27th May

Previously we have utilised a drop in model but after feedback from previous activities days, we decided to change tactics. The majority of attendees were arriving at the same time resulting in families having to wait for activities to be available. To combat this we decided have capped bookable spaces for our morning and afternoon sessions and utilise a trail so that there was something to do should participants require extra time.

We have had excellent feedback from this new method as children were able to get more of a qualitative experience and it had less of a conveyer belt feel.

Hanse Festival (14th June)

- 10:30am 13:00 Pirate Takeover-pirate treasure quest, pirate crafts and activities and in the cottages to hear Pirates Love Underpants! £2pp
- Maritime tour from 11am, starting at the Vancouver Statue and ending at True's Yard for tea. Free to attend.
- Amber workshops 10.00, 12noon and 14.00 for those who fancy having a go at making amber jewellery - no experience required. £15pp
- Sea shanty festival 14:00-17:30. Join Stuart Green for a sea shanty workshop followed by a performance of well-known sea shanties by the Blakeney Old Wild Rovers £5pp or Family Ticket £10.

5.2 Oral History Project- Capturing Memories

Our Oral History Committee is hard at work capturing new oral histories and so far 19 new stories have been recorded (last report 18) but the focus has been largely on cataloguing and organising the existing collection into the same format.

5.3 Social Media

Currently the Museum's Facebook page has 2.5k followers; Instagram 475 Followers (last report 474). Our TikTok has 202 followers. We are slowly making the transition from Twitter to Blue Sky.

6 Visitor Numbers

Visitor Numbers for the year 24/25: 11,701.

7 Resource Implications

Grants

None.

Recommendations

That the Area Committee note the report.

Originator of report: Lindsey Bavin Museum Curator True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum Tel: 01553770479

e-mail: info@truesyard.co.uk

Stories of Lynn and Tourist Information Centre Visitor Figures

Stories of Lynn

Month	Total entries	Cumulative	Schools
Mar-25	572	9736	131
Apr-25	646	646	84
May-25	714	1360	197

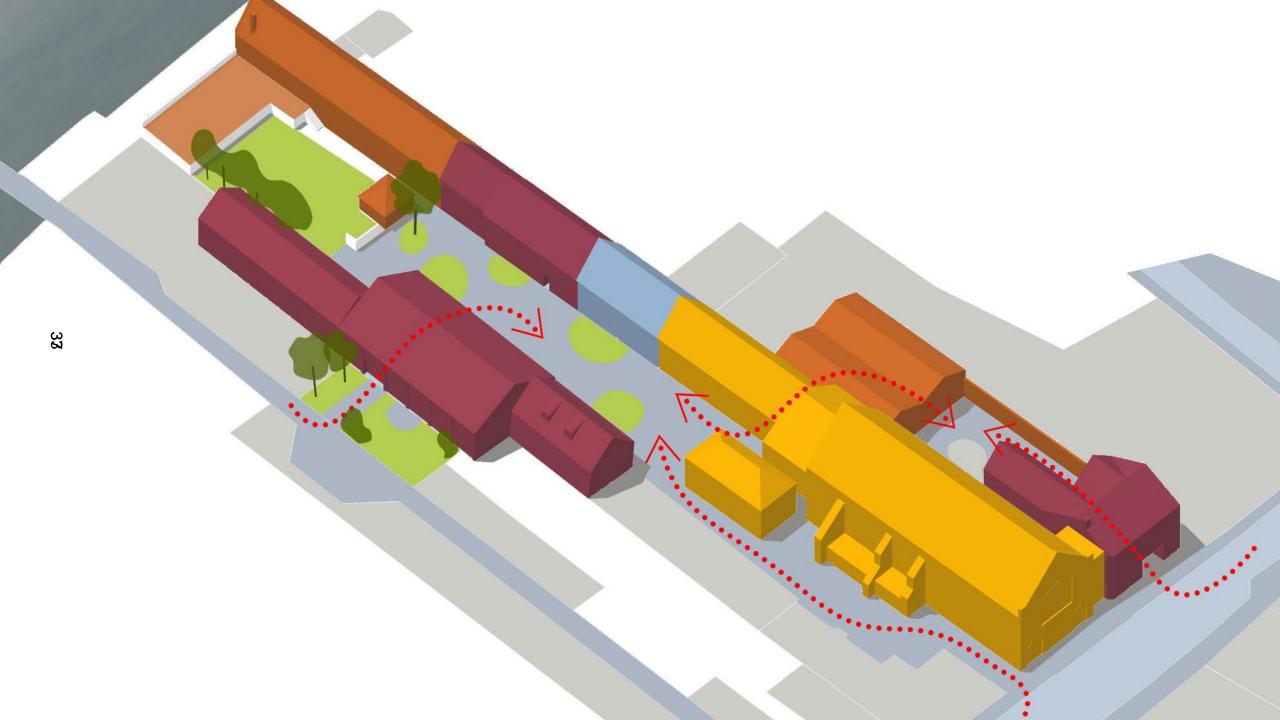
Tourist Information Centre

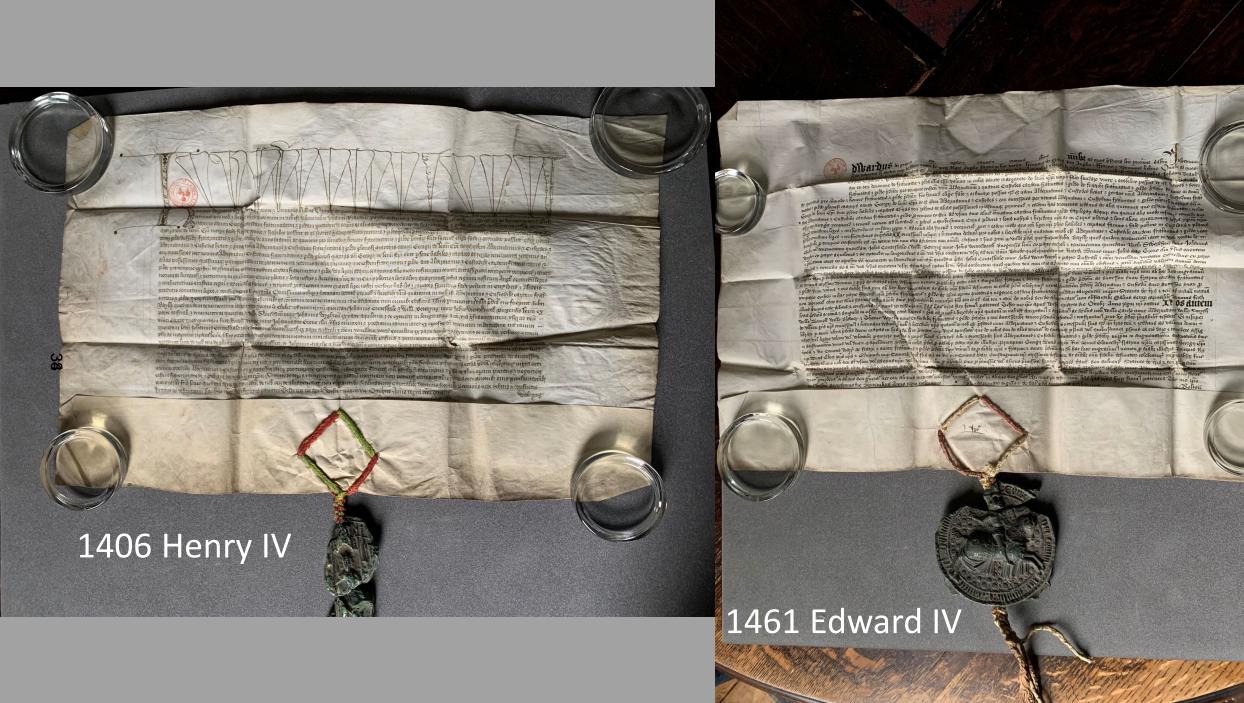
Month	In Person Enquiry	Telephone Enquiry	Email Enquiry	Overseas Visitors	Pontoon Enquiry	Accommodation Enquiry	Tourism Pack sent out
Mar-25	872	165	43	0	21	0	17
Apr-25	1063	116	42	5	25	0	15
May-25	1005	141	32	5	13	0	15

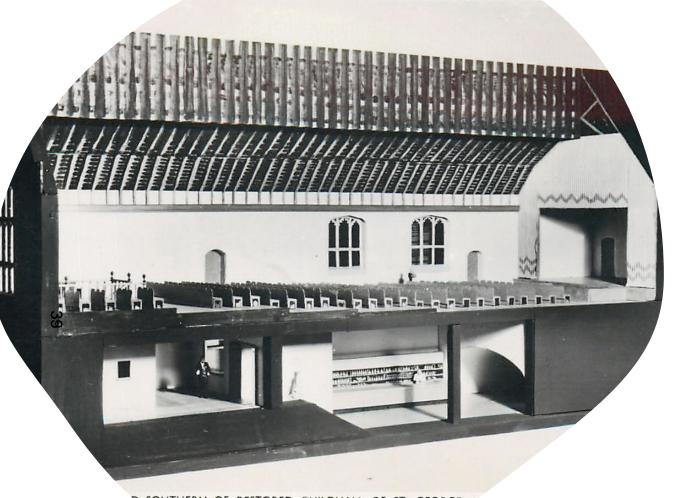












SOUTHERN OF RESTORED GUILDHALL OF ST. GEORGE, "
"ING IN BRITAIN; BUILT ABOUT 1410; USED FO"

"35; ARMOURY DURING CIVIL WAR; TH"





GEORGE'S GUILDA

(A.D. 1407)

KING'S LYNN

NORFOLK

WHERE SHAKESPEARE'S COMPANY ACTED IN 1595



Minutes of King's Lynn Corporation agreed by Mr. Mayor

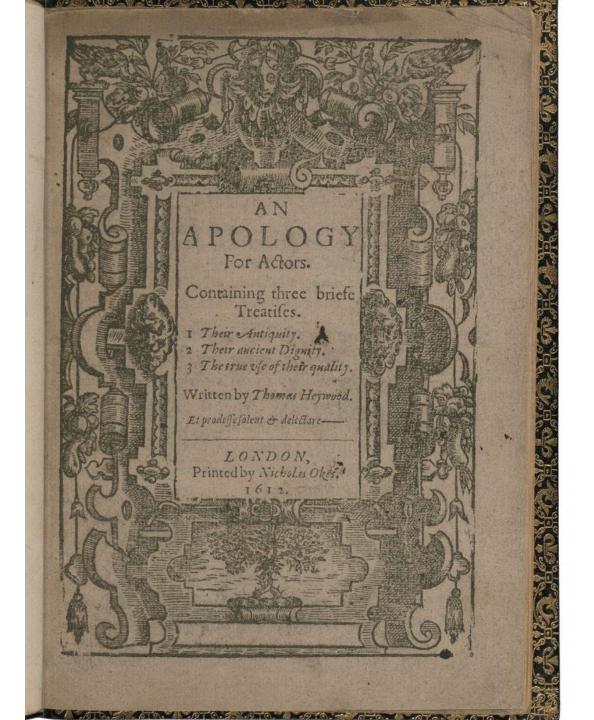
in the Hospitall.

Played by the Children of the Kings Maichties Reuels.

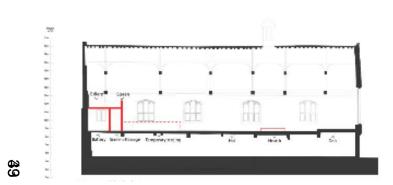
VV ritten by ROBERT ARMIN, feruant to the Kings most excellent Maiestie.



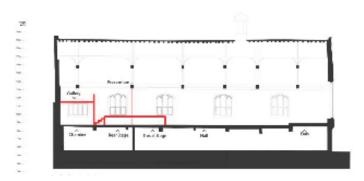
237



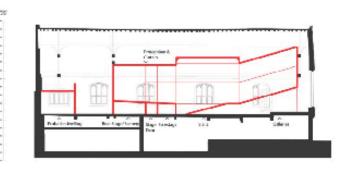
Timeline of Theatre use at St George's Guildhall



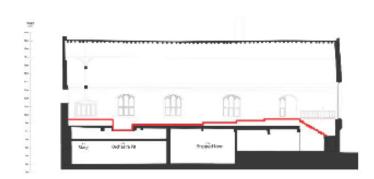
1406 - possibly Elizabethan



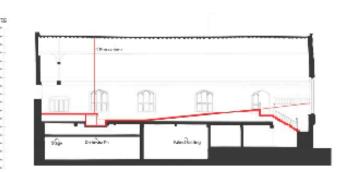
Elizabethan - 1766



1766 - 1953



1953 - 1962

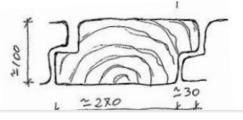


1962 - 2025

Guildhall medieval floor discovery







... probably the biggest expanse of original medieval upper floor flooring surviving in Britian - Dr Jonathan Clarke

The majority of the original first-floor structure survives, consisting of the unusual construction of bridging beams and floorboards only. Instead of joists spanning between the bridging beams and boards then laid on top of the joists, the floorboards are laid directly upon the bridging beams. This arrangement is only structurally possible because of the massive thickness of the floorboards which thus effectively act as floorboards and joists; it would perhaps be more correct to call these joist-floorboards. The boards are further secured by being rebated along their edges to lock into the adjacent board and pegged at their ends into the bridging beams.

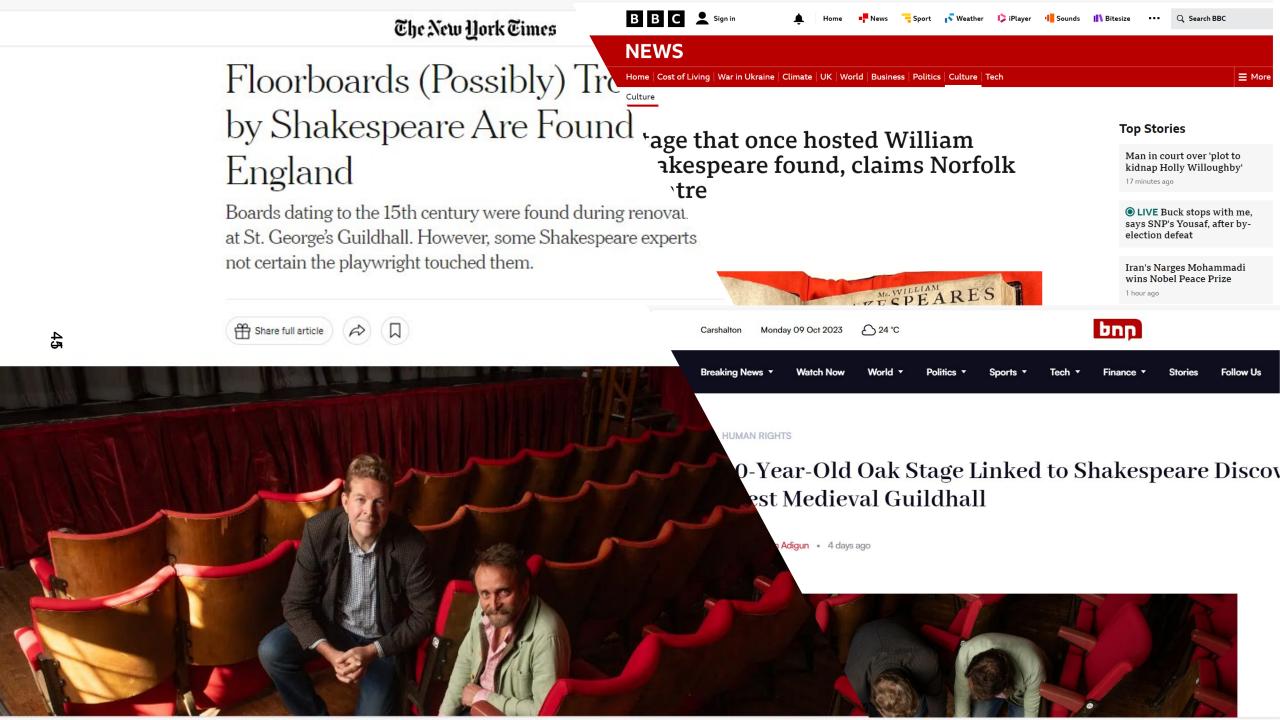
The very nature of this floor construction is intrinsically very robust; medieval upper floors of the more typical joist and floorboard, or lime ash, floor arrangement tend to have the relatively thin floorboards which are replaced over time as the boards are damaged, split and fail, while lime ash floors crack or can suffer wholesale failure.

Because of its construction, the upper floor of St. George's Hall is thus one of the largest expanses of timber flooring from the medieval period to have survived in Britain.

The reason for using this method merits further consideration. Other comparable buildings, such as St Mary's Guildhall, Boston, have conventional floors of bridging beams, joists and (replacement) boards, while the other main surviving guildhall in King's Lynn has a vaulted support for the floor. That the timber was used so generously at St George's suggests that a plentiful supply of thick section timber was available to the builders.



FAS



Archaeologists uncover 'Shakespeare' doorway in Norfolk theatre

Archway in St George's Guildhall probably led to dressing room used by Bard and visiting players when in King's Lynn



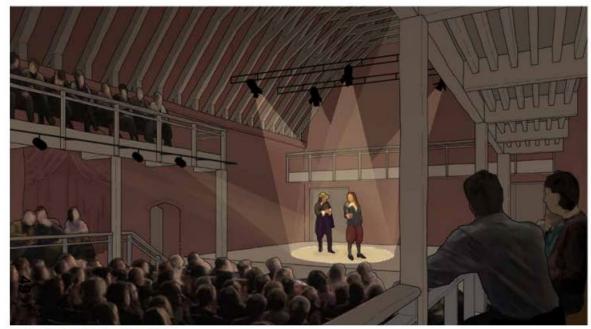
The top of the 15th century archway uncovered behind a wall in St George's Guildhall, King's

450million people in 12 months





Guildhall (Main Hall)







Sketch view of Guildhall courtyard theatre looking out from stage

Examples of similar courtyard performance spaces

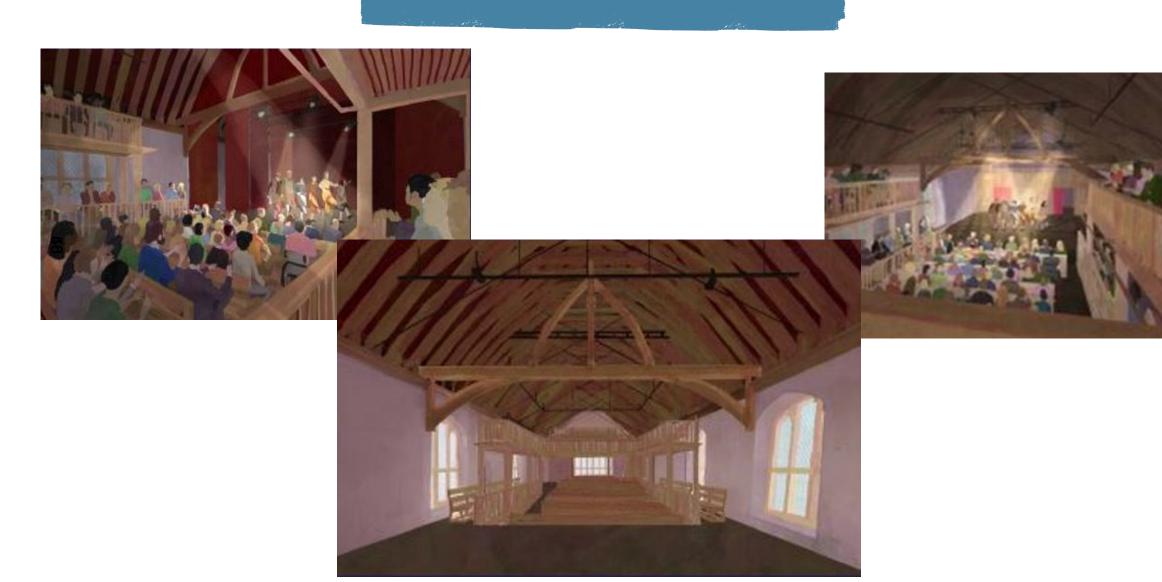








St George's Guildhall: Vision for the future





St George's Guildhall: Vision for the future











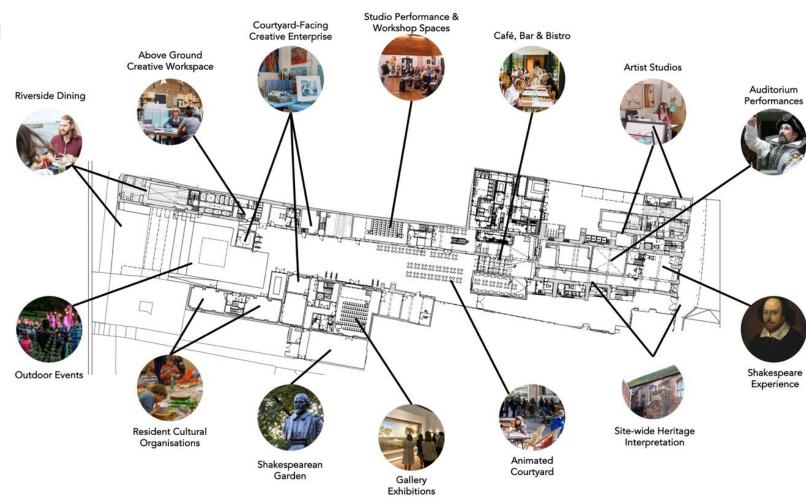


A Sustainable Business Model for the future

- Business Plan: mix of revenue to attract visitors, provide flexibility and resilience.
- Long-term Operating model of CIO
 Optimum benefit longer term of fundraising, tax benefits, operational flexibility and resilience.

Direct Benefits and Outputs:

- £2m turnover new business.
- World Class interpretation offer.
- Employing 34 equivalent FT roles.
- 77,000 Unique visitors to site.
- 10,300 Educational visitors.
- Assist 60 entrepreneurs be ready to succeed.



Proposed Ground Floor Plan





und level)

KING STREET





Creative Hub









Sketch view of Guildhall King Street facade & new ground floor window into reception area

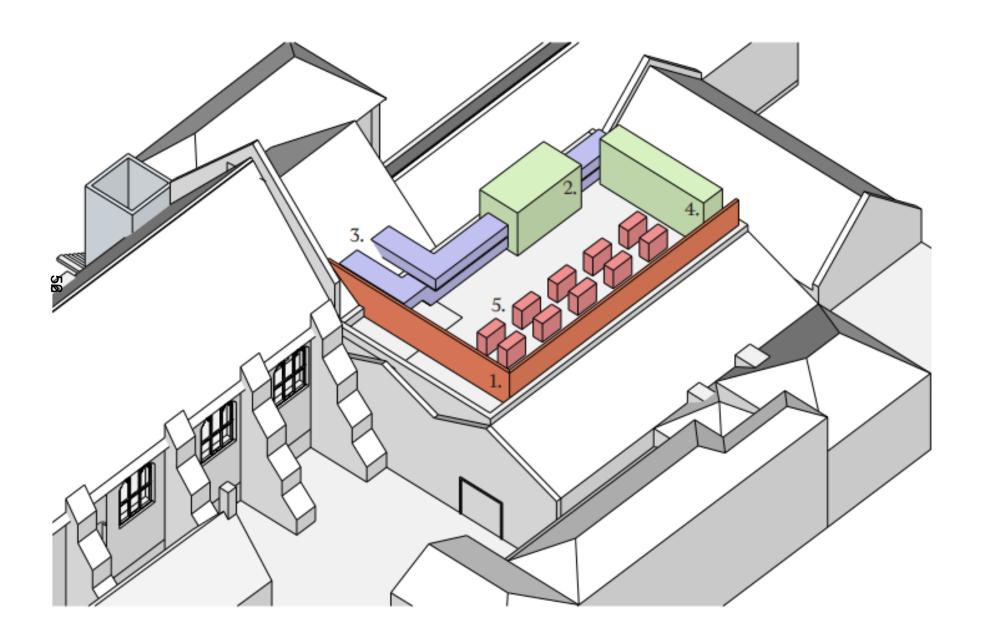




"ntrance passageway from street entrance & reception to n foyer at the centre of the site



Roof Level Plant Area



- 1. Two metre high visual and acoustic plant screen
- 2. Air handling unit (Serving up to 400 people between Guildhall and Undercroft spaces)
- 3. Ductwork
- 4. Kitchen extract
- Air source heat pumps (Accounting for one third of the heat load for the whole complex)



FREE

CHAKESPEARE,

y in a Day this August St George's Guildhall!

Sunday 23rd April 2pm
Feature film "Gnomeo and Juliet"



Thursday 3rd August 10.30am-2.30pm

Delvetont Drage



From 12 noon

Activities for all ages!



Crafts



Weapons



FREE

ARE'S BIRTHDAY **EORGE'S GUILDHALL**

APRIL AND **RIL 2023**

4PM

Saturday 22nd April 2pm Feature film "Bill"

T, KING'S LYNN PE30 1HA



In collaboration with: **Mational Trust**

Saturday 22nd April at 7pm Free talk 'Eating With Shakespeare' by Brigitte Webster

30AM - 12.30PM

MYSTERY EVENT WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET



www.stgeorgesguildhall.com

Quiz costumed characters as you take part in activities. Find the clues and vote on the verdict.

£3 per child, accompanying adults free.

St George's Guildhall Theatre, 29 King Street, King's Lynn PE30 1HA

Come and be a volunteer, we'd love to hear from you

guildhall@west-Norfolk.gov.uk



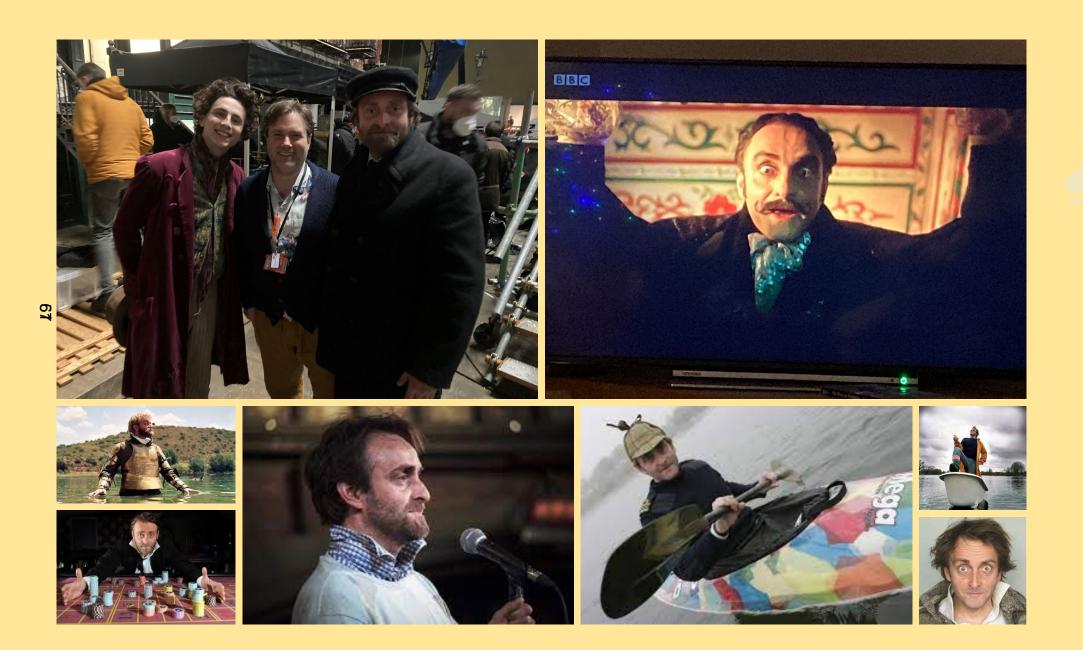




Questions or thoughts?

www.stgeorgesguildhall.com



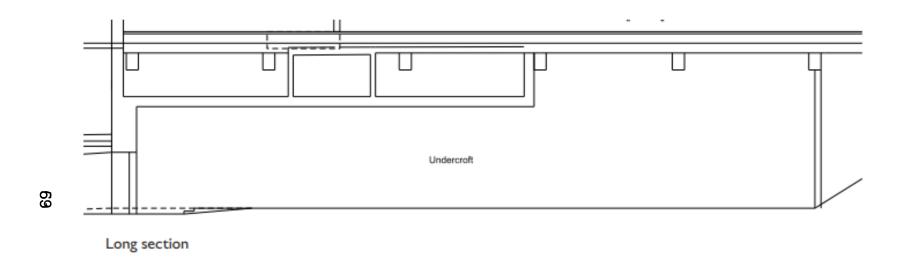


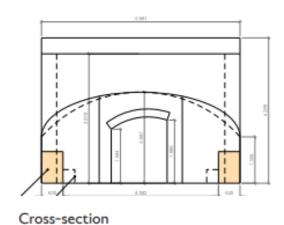


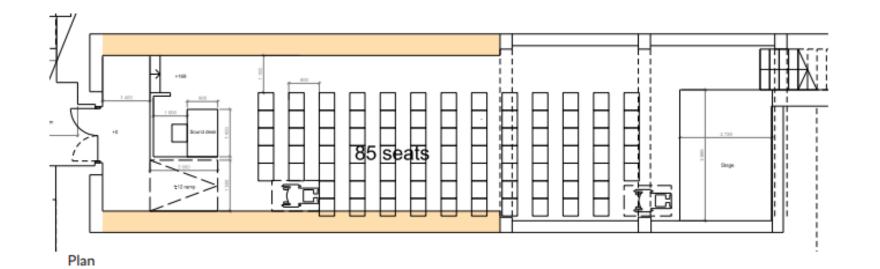




Undercroft layout & capacity



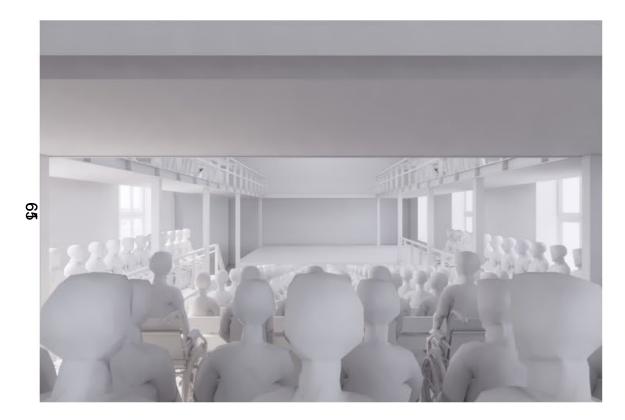


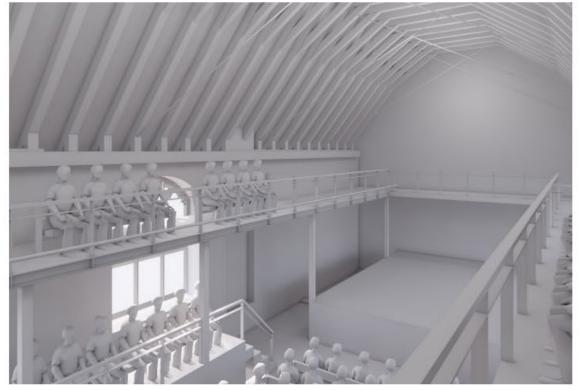






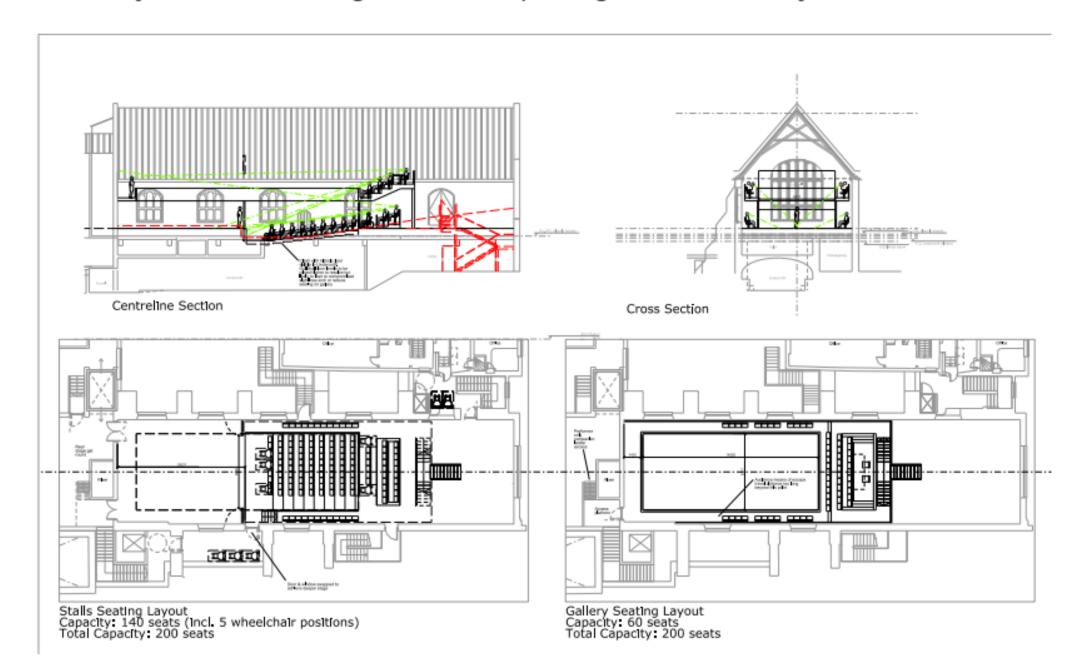
Proposed 90 seat venue in the under-croft





View from Rear of Stalls

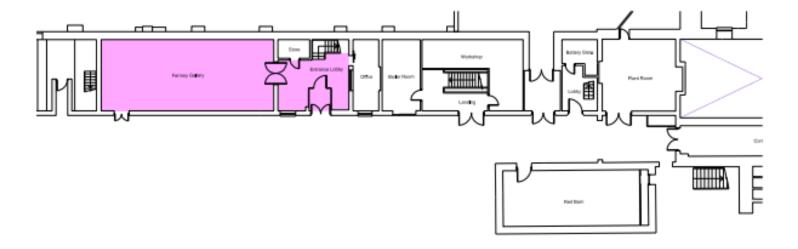
Courtyard Theatre - Arrangement C - Deeper Stage + 4-Sided Gallery





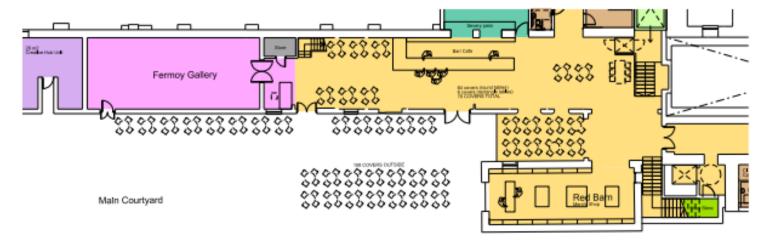
Alternative 1 - Fermoy Gallery retained

Existing ground floor plan (extract)



68

Proposed ground floor plan (extract)



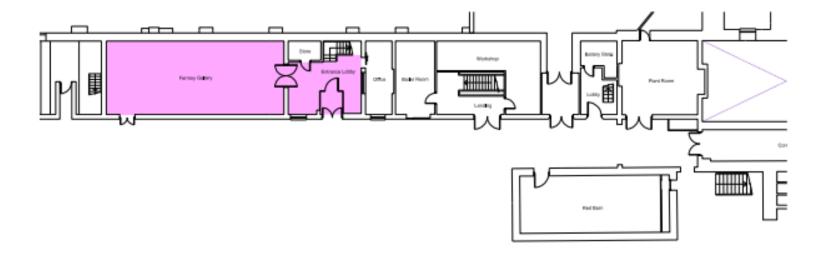
Achieves 70 internal covers

Significant shortfall

Business Plan 125 cover target

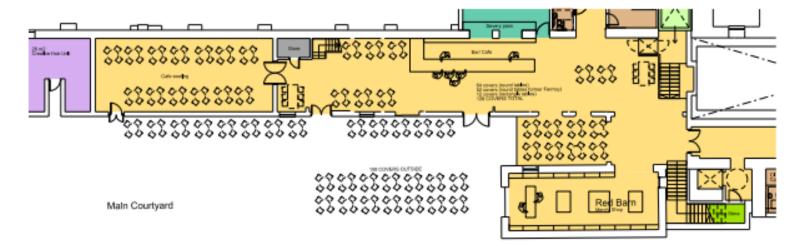
Current proposal - former Fermoy Gallery converted to cafe seating area

xisting ground floor plan extract)



69

roposed ground floor plan extract)



Achieves 128 internal covers

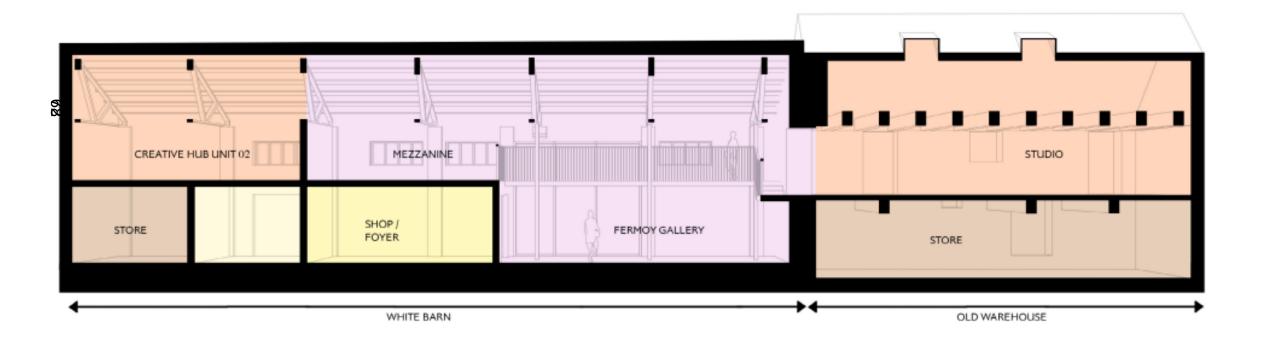
Business Plan 125 cover target

Foyer cafe bar - brief Shakespeare Bar Shakespeare Courtyard No. 29 King Street 26 rs2 Creative Hub Lint anananan ananana 99 ATTATATA TATATATA Passageway

- 128 covers inside (125 in business plan)
- 108 covers outside (108 in business plan)
- · Former Fermoy Gallery area could be closed off during quieter periods or used as lunch room for school groups
- 76 covers inside if former Fermoy area closed

0

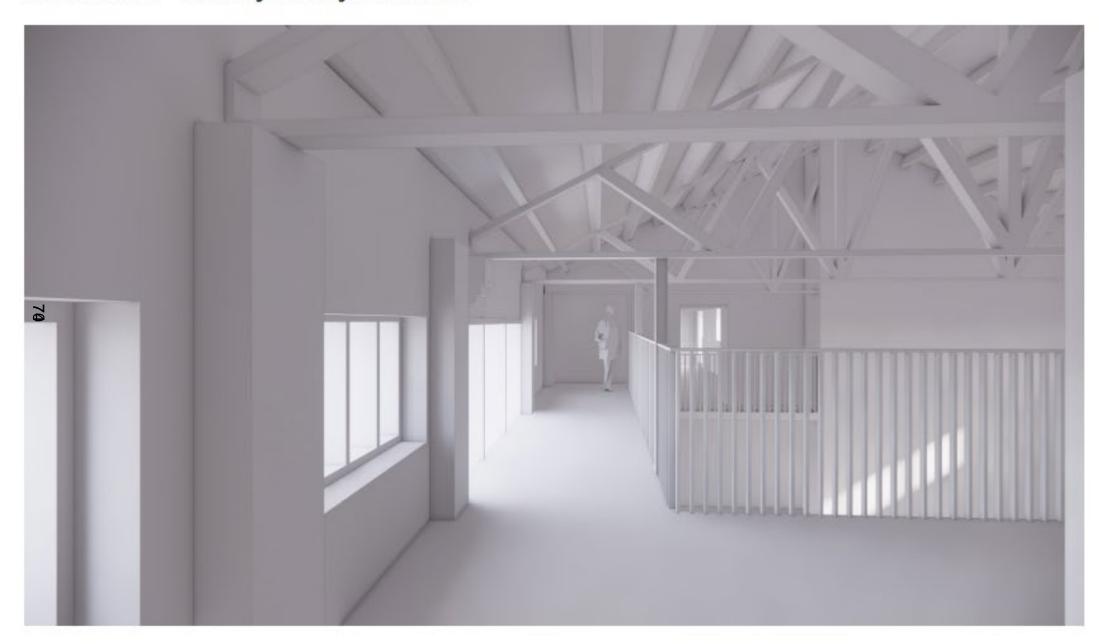
Proposed Section - Option 02 (Warehouse as Store & Studio Mezzanine)



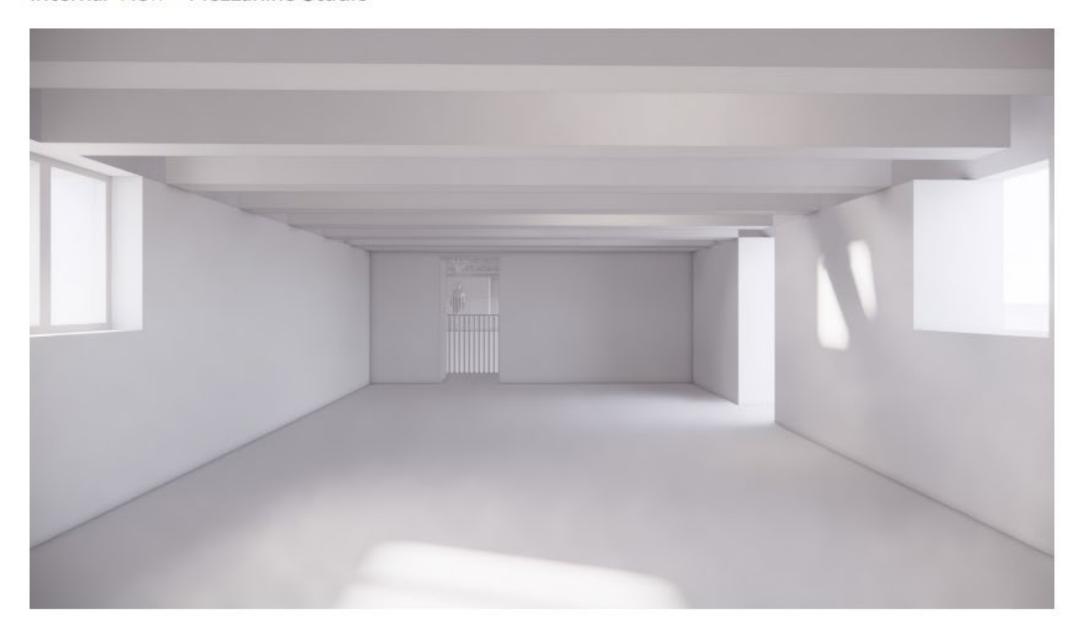
Internal View - Fermoy Gallery



Internal View - Fermoy Gallery Mezzanine



Internal View - Mezzanine Studio



DECLARING AN INTEREST AND MANAGING ANY CONFLICTS FLOWCHART



START

YFS ←

Does the matter directly relate to one of your DPIs?

 \rightarrow NO

YES 🗹

Does the matter directly relate to the finances or wellbeing of one of your ERIs?

a conflict and cannot act or remain in the meeting *

Declare the interest. You have

Declare the interest. You have a conflict and cannot act or remain in the meeting *

↑ NO

* without a dispensation

Glossary:

DPI: Disclosable Pecuniary

ERI: Extended Registrable

Declare the interest. You have a conflict and cannot act or

remain in the meeting *

YES ←

Does it directly relate to the finances or wellbeing of you, a relative or a close associate?

Other actions to mitigate against identified conflicts:

- 1. Don't read the papers
- 2. Tell relevant officers
- 3. Ask to be removed from any email recipient chain/group

Declare the interest. Are you or they affected to a greater

extent than most people? And would a reasonable person think you are biased because of the interest?

YES ←

↑ NO

Does it affect the finances or wellbeing of you, a relative, a close associate or one of my ERIs?

 YES

You have a conflict and cannot act or remain in the meeting *

↑NO

Take part as normal **↑** NO

Does it relate to a Council Company or outside body to which you are appointed by the Council?

YES ∠

Z

↑ NO

You can remain the meeting if the Chair agrees, for you to speak in your external capacity only. Do not vote.

You can take part in discussions but make clear which capacity you are speaking in. Do not vote.

YES ←

NO ←

Declare the interest. Do you, or would a reasonable person think there are competing interests between the Council and the company/outside body?

Does another interest make you that feel you cannot act in a fair, objective or open manner? Would a reasonable person knowing the same interest think you could not act in a fair, objective or open manner?

NO TO BOTH

YES TO ONE ↓

Declare the interest for the sake of openness and transparency. Then take part as normal.

You have a conflict. Declare the interest. Do not participate and do not vote.

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If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Robin Hanley on 01603 493663 and we will do our best to help

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

15 September 2025

Item No.

KING'S LYNN MUSEUMS REPORT

Report by the Assistant Head of Museums

This report provides information on King's Lynn Museum activities in the period from June – July 2025

1 Exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum

1.1 Current exhibition

May the Toys Be with You 11 July 2025 - 31 May 2026



Marketing design for the current Star Wars themed exhibition at Lynn Museum.

The current exhibition at Lynn Museum, which opened in July, is *May the Toys be with You*. It showcases one of the UK's finest collections of vintage Star Wars toys and original cinema posters, from 1977-1985. It is a celebration of the now highly collectable vintage toy line and of the iconic design work and art of the Star Wars movies. This exhibition opened at Lynn Museum on 11 July and will run until 31 May next year.

The exhibition is aimed at developing audiences and is an opportunity to showcase aspects of the Lynn Museum collections including toys and games.

Feedback from visitors suggests the exhibition has attracted a higher proportion of first-time visitors than usual.



Filming at Lynn Museum for an ITV news piece presented by David Whiteley

The exhibition has generated some helpful publicity. Below are links to features about the Star Wars themed exhibition:

Facebook (includes the Anglia ITV news report)

Star Wars devotee brings collection to Lynn Museum - BBC News

Star Wars toy collection goes on show at Lynn Museum | Eastern Daily Press



Original toys from the first Star Wars films, part of a collection on display at Lynn Museum

1.2 Previous Exhibition *Woof: A Celebration of Dogs* Tuesday 1 October 2024 – Sunday 29 June 2025.



Woof: A Celebration of Dogs exhibition opened at Lynn Museum on Tuesday 1 October last year and ran until late June. This show was curated in-house drawing upon natural history, archaeology, art and social history collections. The majority of the items exhibited are from the Lynn Museum reserve

collection, supplemented with internal loans from NMS sites at Gressenhall, Norwich Castle and the Norfolk Costume and Textile collections, national collections, and from private individuals. The Tate Gallery loaned three artworks for the exhibition including pieces by David Hockney and Sir Edwin Landseer. The Kennel Club lent 'England Expects' a painting by Maud Earl of two Toy Bulldogs, an extinct breed.

1.3 Forthcoming Exhibition: "Unboxed: Discovering Lynn's Collections" (working title)

The next exhibition at Lynn Museum will focus on the breadth of the King's Lynn collections. On show will be examples of archaeology, natural history, geology, fine art, costume and textiles, social history and prints and drawings from the tens of thousands of items collected since the museum collections were first established in 1844. The display will provide a showcase for the collections-based Newman project and will be a chance to share items not normally on display such as light sensitive watercolours and costume.

1.4 Family events

The museum continues to offer events and regular family trails during holiday periods. On the 31 July, the first of the summer holiday activity days for families was a Star Wars event which saw a total of 170 participants, with 69 children.

1.5 Family Trails

Trails are provided at the museum for children and families to enjoy an exploration of the museum. The *Lightsabres* trail which ran from 23 July – 3 August was enjoyed by 187 visitors.

1.6 Mini Museum

Lynn Museum continues to provide regular activities for our youngest visitors through the monthly mini museum programme. Activities are delivered by the museum's learning team. These have included:

- *'Hairy Maclary'* on 19 June with an audience of 12 children and 25 participants in total.
- *'Star Wars'* on 17 July with an audience of 6 children and 12 participants in total

1.7 Coffee Mornings

The monthly themed coffee mornings continue to be offered at Lynn Museum, normally attended by about 15 – 30 people. During the reporting period there have been two coffee morning with themes of 'Beeswax Candles' and 'Tin Can Droids'.

1.8 Talks Programme

The Museum normally receive audiences of around 20-30 people for the Friday afternoon talks.

'Making Droids and Star Wars props' (25/07/2025) with Tom Powell which received an audience of 17.

1.9 Workshop

The Museum held an Ancient Egyptian Mummification workshop with Mark Taylor, with a total of 19 participants.

1.10 Forthcoming events

Forthcoming events for Lynn Museum may be seen here: What's on at Lynn Museum - Lynn Museum - Norfolk Museums Service

2 Newman Legacy project

As previously reported, the Lynn Museum has benefited from a legacy given specifically for the museum's use provided by the late Eric and Rita Newman. The Newmans were siblings who had retired to Congham near King's Lynn with interests in local history and helping children learn. The museum service is very grateful for the Newmans' generosity.

Newman Assistant Curator Jan Summerfield and Newman NMS Teaching Museum Trainee Rosalyn McLean (2025-2026) have been working on the cataloguing and documenting of material in the museum stores, as part of a planned programme of collections management work supported by the Newman legacy. Work has included the geology collections and the audit of this material is nearly complete.

3 Other Museum developments

3.1 Publicity and promotion

The Lynn Museum continues to develop its social media presence, with Twitter and Facebook and now Instagram accounts being actively used and maintained by staff. The museum's X (Twitter), Facebook and Instagram accounts may be seen here:

<u>Lynn Museum (@Lynn_Museum) / X (twitter.com)</u> Facebook

King's Lynn Museum on Instagram • Photos and videos

As well as digital delivery, the museum has maintained strong links with local media outlets including the *Lynn News*. Staff continue to contribute to a fortnightly *Picture This* column, with a focus on local drawings, engravings and paintings.

A variety of films linked to Lynn Museum are available on the museum's You Tube Channel, here: <u>Lynn Museum - YouTube</u>

A number of online exhibitions are available through the Google Arts and Culture platform: Lynn Museum, King's Lynn, United Kingdom — Google Arts & Culture

3.2 NMS Teaching Museum Trainees

One year-long paid traineeships are offered as part of the Norfolk Museums Service Teaching Museum scheme, principally funded through the NMS Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation programme. For 2025-26 we have Rosalyn Maclean who has settled in well and is enjoying the hands-on aspect of her traineeship.

3.3 Retail offer at Lynn Museum

The museum team continues to develop the retail offer at Lynn Museum working with the NMS Retail Manager Hat Johnson. A recent project has been to develop a range of cards and other merchandise using designs from the Taylors seed shop business of King's Lynn.

An event was staged at the museum to present the Taylor brothers with a selection of the new merchandise as a thank you for their support of the museums service.



Cllr Tony Bubb, Chair of Area Museums Committee, with Bob and Jim Taylor and Newman Curator, Dayna Woolbright for the launch of the Taylor merchandise, for sale at Lynn Museum and Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse.

3.4 Object Photography

Adding images to the museum's online catalogue continues to be a priority and staff at Lynn Museum will be spending a third day in September working with photographer David Kirkham to take new pictures of items on display in the main gallery at the museum. These images will be shared through the Norfolk Collections website, social media, museum website and in other ways as part of the work to engage with the public with collections knowledge.



Model of shipyard at South Gate, by King's Lynn-born Thomas Baines, a recent photograph taken of items on display at Lynn Museum.

The Norfolk Museums collections site may be seen here:

Norfolk Museums Collections - Museums Collections - Norfolk Museums

Service

3.5 Volunteers

Four collections volunteers have now completed a 12-week programme to scan paper collections and add information and images to the MODES collections database supervised by NMS staff. The volunteers met in the museum offices at the Town Hall on Wednesday mornings from January to April. A group of work-experience volunteers met over the summer and there are plans to involve a group of collections volunteers in the autumn.

3.6 Baines Publication

The Museum team continues to work with Dr Michael Stevenson on a project about King's Lynn-born Thomas Baines. Dr Stevenson is creating a complete record of the artist's work for publication. The online catalogue of Baines pictures exists thanks to the work of the Lynn Museum volunteers who have scanned the collection of drawings and other art work.

3.7 Finds Identification and Recording Day

Lynn Museum continues to offer finds identification and recording days in partnership with Norfolk County Council's Finds Identification and Recording Service. The next day is planned for October. These days offer a valuable chance for the NCC Finds team to connect with finders of archaeological material. Significant material can then be recorded for the county database.

Dr Phil Hughes, Team Leader – Finds Identification and Recording reports: "I'm thrilled that these events are getting some attention and have proven to be a great success so far!

In terms of finds, there's a few cases that have been through the Treasure process from the three events that we've run which we can now share:

https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1176780

A Medieval gold finger ring with intact gemstone

https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1183920 A Medieval silver annular brooch with decorative knops in a very good state of preservation and my personal

favourite: https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1176209



Gilded medieval ear scoop identified and recorded at a Lynn Museum finds event

Away from Treasure, I was very pleased with this commemorative denarius of Marcus Aurelius https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1190980.

From the days so far, we have taken in 257 individual metal, flint, individual potsherds and Treasure cases in addition to an assemblage of pottery

containing some circa 400 sherds. Of that, 14 sherds were Late Saxon Thetford Ware in an area that has previously seen some test pitting, which is very pleasing. https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1186093

We've taken in objects from 23 individual finders, of which 16 were previously unknown to us, which means we can advocate for responsible detecting when we run the events. A real contribution of these days is that they help ensure we reach finders living in and finding objects from West Norfolk. As the data recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme are imported into the Norfolk Historic Environment Record, it means that we minimise locational biases based on our service provision and enhance the county's archaeological record."

4 Borough Council partnership working

The delivery of NMS services in King's Lynn & West Norfolk continues to operate under the terms of the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Borough Council. Under an extension to this agreement, NMS continues to provide curatorial and conservation advice, support and an enquiry service for those Borough collections currently held in the Town Hall including fine art and Civic Regalia.

NMS staff continue to support Borough Council colleagues with the development and delivery of relevant cultural and heritage projects across the Borough, including ongoing support for Towns Fund projects including the Guildhall project. A number of NMS staff support the ongoing work of the Guildhall project team and NMS is also represented on the Guildhall Project Board.

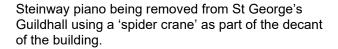


Medieval floor uncovered at St George's Guildhall.

Newman Curator, Dayna Woolbright, has contributed to the work on the St George's Guildhall project's Interpretation Strategy and to various events and exhibitions, working with Jane Hamilton Learning and Engagement Officer at the Guildhall Team. Dayna has produced a series of interpretation panels to inform visitors about the history of the site. Panels included information about the Guild chapel, piscina, floor and sites links to theatre as well as directional signage. The floor is available for viewing until 14 September (Heritage Open Day).

Norfolk Museums Service has also been supporting the resourcing and delivery of school events at the Guildhall including a half day workshop focusing on the archaeology found at the Guildhall working with the Guildhall Education Officer. NMS continues to support the activity plan and are currently assisting with the summer programme.

In late July NMS arranged for the first decant of collections from the St George's Guildhall. This involved moving the 300 theatre seats from the auditorium, and historic items to storage rooms at Hunstanton. The move took place over two days. In early August NMS supported the removal of the 1920s Steinway piano from St. George's Guildhall, undertaken with piano moving specialists. The process involved using a spider crane to take it out of the barn doors on the first floor. The piano will remain in safe storage for the duration of the redevelopment project.





Stories of Lynn

Norfolk Museums Service continues to support the Borough Council with the delivery of the NLHF-funded Stories of Lynn project focussed on King's Lynn Town Hall. NMS manages the Stories of Lynn Learning & Engagement Officer post, which is co-funded by the Borough Council and the NLHF Kick the Dust: Norfolk project. Elizabeth Joisce, the postholder has now returned from maternity leave.

The exhibition space at Stories of Lynn currently has the *Surviving the Railway* exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of VJ Day. King's Lynn-based staff worked with Kate Thaxton, Curator of the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum and Sam Wiggin, NMS Teaching Museum Trainee on this display, which was formally opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester in March. For further information and photographs please follow this link:

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester visits new exhibition in King's Lynn | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk



The Museums Service is currently supporting plans to place on public display more artworks from the town collection. There will be four works going on display in the Borough Council offices at King's Court including *Too Late for the Ferry* by artist Robert Walker Macbeth (1848–1910). An additional three paintings will be displayed in the Town Hall, with more to follow.

Too Late for the Ferry Robert Walker Macbeth (1848–1910) King's Lynn Museums.

The Lynn Museum's free admission period runs from 1 October until the end of March 2025. This free admission period is provided under the terms of the Service Level Agreement between the Borough Council and NMS. The Museums Service continues to offer the Norfolk Museums Pass which offers free admission all 10 Norfolk Museums locations for a whole year.

5 Learning & Outreach

School visits

Lynn Museum continues to offer a range of school workshops run flexibly to accommodate teachers' needs. Typical sessions include the Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Romans and Iceni, Bronze Age and Seahenge, Stone Age, the Second World War, Ancient Egyptians, and Homes Long Ago.

School sessions normally follow a pattern of a carousel of different activities with children learning in a variety of styles. Delivery of sessions is normally undertaken by a mix of museum staff and freelance costumed interpreters.

The following link for teachers explains what is on offer at Lynn Museum for pupils at Key Stage 2.

Key stage 2 education at Lynn Museum - Norfolk Museums

Lynn Museum learning staff continue to work closely with Stories of Lynn in the running of joint school workshops on topics such as Maritime Life, Lord Nelson, Captain Vancouver, Crime and Punishment, Frederick Savage and the Lynn Mart, the Great Fire of London and Floods and Flooding.



Children learning about maritime history at Lynn Museum

6 Kick the Dust update

Following the successful conclusion of the National Lottery Heritage Fund funded 'Kick the Dust' project, Norfolk Museums Service (NMS) secured additional funding through an Arts Council England NPO Uplift award for the period 2023-27. This funding is 'place' focused targeting young people in Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Thetford, in partnership with NLIS and organisations working with vulnerable young people aged 13-25 years. This additional funding will enable young people to participate in high quality cultural and heritage activities that develop their creative and digital skills and potential, as well as prepare them for the workplace.

During 2023-26 NMS is also receiving funding from Norfolk County Council (NCC) Public Health to support 'Kick the Dust' activities that focus on the mental health and wellbeing of Norfolk young people.

NMS is partnering with Norfolk Library & Information Service (NLIS) to deliver this exciting programme of activity strengthening partnership working between museum and library staff, increasing levels of cultural engagement by young people in a sustained way, through the successful 'Kick the Dust' approach to youth engagement that uses the three-stage progression model of '*Player-Shaper-Leader*'. The programme is aimed at those in the three priority places aged 16-25 years, with opportunities for 13–16yr olds to engage as part of the progression framework.

The key aims of the new 'Kick the Dust' project continue to be to:

- develop transferable work-related skills with the aim of supporting more working age young people into employment, training or further learning;
- develop digital skills linked to creative industries to address the digital skills gap in heritage and cultural sectors;
- increase young people's creative skills and for young people to gain a range of new cultural experiences;
- encourage an appreciation of the history and culture of their local communities;
- to measure impact on young people's skills, confidence and mental health and wellbeing through a strong and robust evaluation framework.

Young people work alongside professionals to develop their transferable work-related and creative skills, through the co-production of activity and events, volunteering and work experience operating at a level that meets their needs. Feedback from young people shows that they value the skills they develop as part of the project with the top 5 skills being cited as: problem solving, digital, communication, team working and creativity.

Participation numbers:

Since the start of the ACE funded "Kick the Dust" project (June 2023) there has been:

- 5,157 interventions
- 1,505 individual young people
- 3,017 hours of quality activity.
- 97.7% of the activities were face to face, the other sessions being offered online with young people in the principal target areas.

Participation between October 2018 and August 2025:

- 6,031 young people engaged in 18,911 interventions
- 10,056 hours of high-quality activities delivered across Norfolk
- 89% of all activity designed and led by young people
- Youth Board established for 18-25 yr olds with 12 Youth Ambassadors operating at strategic level

This blended approach offers a wider range of opportunities for young people to engage in heritage:

- 18% of activity was at Player level (to introduce new young people to the project)
- 61% at Shaper level (longer term project with young people determining the content)
- 21% at Leader level (long term engagement young people leading projects, acting at governance level, mentoring staff)
- 82% of all activity involves young people in leading and designing projects

Breakdown of activity taking place in each area:

- 22% (187 opportunities) in Kings Lynn, (including Gressenhall),
- 26% (217 opportunities) in Thetford
- 20% (169 opportunities) in the East (covering Great Yarmouth, Cromer)
- 23% (193 opportunities) in Norwich
- 10% (83 opportunities) outside of area and 6 other opportunities for our online work experience programme targeted at Thetford and Kings Lynn young people.
- 70 volunteering opportunities have been provided, with 3 young people taking on the role of Project Assistant and 12 as a Young Ambassador.
- Of all delivery, 81% involves young people being part of a long-term group, providing them with a deeper understanding of heritage and allowing them to explore their identity, develop their skills and confidence and embed themselves more in their local communities, a key aim of ACE.

The young people have access to all of NMS sites and can visit with a friend or family member for free during their engagement for that year, using the free pass which forms part of the 'Kick the Dust' offer.

We continue to deliver a blended training offer for all staff and volunteers who support youth engagement in NMS. Staff input to the training programme will be formulated as the project progresses and needs are identified. Three of the team have undertaken Arts Award training to add additional value to the programme enabling young people who have limited experience of gaining a qualification in arts to achieve.

Our offer to support young people around the important theme of mental health and wellbeing is on-going and is now measured through the evaluation framework using data from the young people's feedback forms as well as narrative evaluation the results of which form part of this report. Working with colleagues in NCC Public Health and NCC Performance and Governance teams we have been able to interrogate the data around impact on mental wellbeing and match this to the interviews with the young people engaged in the narrative evaluation programme. The data shows that 31% of individual young people who have taken part in 'Kick the Dust' identify as having a mental health issue showing the need for this programme, although this continues to slowly decrease as young people engage more with the programme. A further 9% identify as having a physical disability which requires additional support for them to access the programme. Through a systematic approach to evaluation, in partnership with Norfolk Library and Information Service, the team can demonstrate the impact on mental health on those talking part and the young people can monitor their progress through the programme in relation to skills, confidence and mental health.

Target audiences: (some young people fall into more than one category) as of 12/08/25

- FE/HE 34%
- YMCA clients 10%
- Secondary schools 31%
- Young people with mental health issues 30%
- SEND 10%
- Outside of mainstream education 27%
- NEET 27%
- Looked after children and adopted living those at home 2%
- Care Leavers 2%
- Young Carers 2%
- New arrivals and refugees 4%
- Pregnant young mums and teenage parents 0%
- Other groups 24%
- YOT/ at risk of offending 1%
- Mental health 31%

In terms of how young people find out about 'Kick the Dust', the 'Kick the Dust' website is being used effectively with 14% of young people finding out about the project through the updated web pages ('Kick the Dust' - Norfolk

Museums) and 17% through social media posts; 14% through a family member or friend, 30% coming via one of our partner organisations and 22% having already taken part in a previous 'Kick the Dust' project. As more young people join having taken part in a previous 'Kick the Dust' project this is impacting on questions relating to knowledge and understanding of heritage and job roles within NMS with 64% stating that they are aware of different job roles in NMS ahead of starting a new project although on reflection following their engagement this rises to 89%.

As young people move through 'Kick the Dust' the impacts on their confidence and mental health and wellbeing increases.11% of all young people have been part of 'Kick the Dust' since May 2023, 9% for 6 months to a year, 29% for 3-6 months and 51% under 3 months.

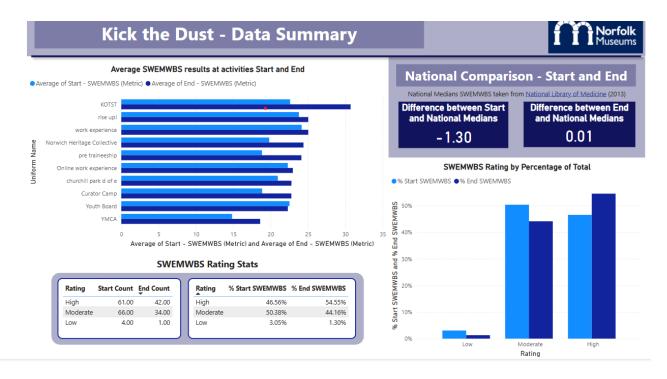
Impacts on mental health and well being

The new young people's feedback form includes the 78 positively worded items from the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being scale for assessing a populations' mental well-being.

From the Young People feedback forms, following their involvement in 'Kick the Dust', 84% strongly agreed that this had had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing. An additional question has been added to identify young people with neurodivergent tendencies and is showing that since July 2025 50% of young people engaged in 'Kick the Dust' identify as neurodivergent which is significant when designing new activity in terms of additional barriers these young people may face.

The following graph highlights the impact on young people's mental health and wellbeing using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (SWEMWBS) from the responses given by the young people between June 2023 and March 2025 who completed Part 1 and Part 2 of the young people feedback forms. Part 1 is completed at the start of the programme and Part 2 at the end, following a one-to-one session with the Project Worker. Using a Dashboard, we can track progress and although this relates to a smaller number than those engaging in the programme, it provides a good benchmark for future delivery.

Graph 1 shows the difference between Norfolk young people at the start and end of their engagement against the National Average (2013 research). At start our young people were -1.30 BELOW the National Average and at end they are +0.01 ABOVE the National average. This is based on 208 responses between September 2023 and March 2025.



The data shows more young people are in HIGH mental health bracket at end than at the start of their engagement which correlates to the data from the narrative evaluation with 85% stating that 'Kick the Dust' is having a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

Additional data shows that 70% of all activity is having a positive impact on young people's mental health and that activities at Shaper level, where young people meet weekly and over a long period of time, give the most impact.

From the additional questions asked of the young people, the programme continues to meet their needs and is helping them see themselves in a museum or heritage setting. 95% state the programme had gone above their expectations and 100% state they felt welcomed and respected by staff and volunteers.

The following percentages are for those strongly agreeing or agreeing with each statement. Unless stated otherwise, the remaining percentage for each question answered fell into the 'neither agreed nor disagreed' response for each statement.

- 94% of all young people strongly agreed that the museum was a safe space for young people like themselves who were struggling.
- 86% strongly agreed they were given a voice that was listened to (11% said they were but only some of the time).
- 81% strongly agreed that they understood heritage better than they had done before taking part
- 80% strongly agreed that following their engagement heritage was more relevant
- 69% strongly agreed that heritage represented young people like themselves.
- 89% stated they now had a greater understanding of museums and the job roles available with 81% strongly agreeing that they felt there were jobs for them in the sector (only 3% disagreed).

- 86% strongly agreed that the skills they had acquired would be useful to them in the future (2% disagreed)
- 79% strongly agreed they felt more connected to their local community than previously, which is one of the aims of the project (2% disagreed)
- 54% agreed that their involvement had helped them to explore and feel more connected to their own identity and heritage (7% disagreed);
- 82% stated they were now more likely to volunteer (5% disagreed).

Summary

Initially funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) from 2018, the NLHF funded 'Kick the Dust' project ended in March 2023 with evidence clearly demonstrating the impact on young people and staff engaging in activity.

Kick the Dust was awarded and Arts Council England NPO Uplift from April 2023 to March 2027. This is 'place' focused funding - targeting young people in the levelling up areas Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Thetford. Additionally we have been given cross-cutting funding from Public Health for 2025-26 period.

We operate across Norfolk, with a team of four staff, working alongside museum professionals to support the development of the museum offer with young people at the centre.

The programme is delivered in partnership with Norfolk Library and Information Service, YMCA and organisations working with vulnerable young people.

Activities include event management, designing displays and exhibitions & producing digital content. Not a one-off project it's a way of working which has brought huge benefits to our organisation - produced institutional change.

'Kick the Dust' has established a three stage *Player-Shaper-Leader* progression model, which offers a pathway and builds cultural engagement in a sustained way:

Player - lighter touch engagements - projects, work placements & taster activities.

Shaper – where they influence the way the museum interacts with its audiences through engagement in longer-term project groups.

Leader - Young Ambassadors on the strategic board, represent the views of other young people or lead their own projects supported by the team.

All of this links to FLOURISH - Norfolk County Council ambition to be a county where all children and young people can flourish

Our aim as we move forward is to support more working age young people to progress into employment, training, or further learning and long-term volunteering.

Strong partnerships with Norfolk County Council teams, YMCA and many external partners that have been developed through 'Kick the Dust' and provide a strong base on which to build, bringing new young people into museum and library spaces helping us to engage with a wide range of young people who face a variety of barriers to participation.

Working with colleagues in NCC Public Health & Performance and Governance teams we have developed a systematic approach to collecting and interrogating data around the impact of KTD on mental wellbeing. Mental Wellbeing is measured through an evaluation framework, using data from

young people's feedback forms and narrative evaluation. Interview questions were designed with young people, and they can monitor their own progress in relation to skills, confidence & mental health.

We support young people to develop transferable **work-related skills including digital tech skills** with the aim of supporting more working age young people into employment, training or further learning; participants have said:

NHC1 - I've decided that I'm going to go into teaching...I'll mention this on PGCE applications in terms of working as a group. I want to be a history teacher so it's quite good knowing information on how other people can get into this. And I hopefully will go into it later, but for now, I want to do the teaching side of things.

'The main thing I've worked on has been communication as well as teamwork. That has definitely improved for me, and it's always been one of those things that has never really been my strong suit up until now' - 'In terms of in terms of working collaboratively... I mean the whole project is about being able to both take orders from other people, but also listen to the ideas from those same people. And well.. it's not that my communication skills are bad. But it's more that, well with being autistic, it can be a struggle to be able to communicate' - Time Turners participant, Kings Lynn.

'I'd say my favourite thing that I've done so far has been the one where we had to record a small video...it allowed me to use my skills in an effective way which in certain parts of my life has not necessarily been easy to do' — 'and in terms of specialist skills, I mean really liking... especially visual and audio media, it definitely allowed me to lean into those strengths a bit more'. — 'I've never been like been recorded with a camera before, like a proper professional like film, I've not done that before. I feel like that's greatly benefited me' Time Turners participant2

Young people have emphasised the fun side of learning **new creative skills & gaining cultural experiences** alongside their friends old and new: 'It's a really fun thing outside of schoolwork and stuff to do on a weekend and, yeah, see friends and it's just a really fun thing to do.'- Member of National Saturday Club at Time and Tide Museum.

'I just wanted to meet other young people who had similar interests and do something creative where I could still learn as well'. - 'I know on a Wednesday afternoon I'm going to do something fun, so it kind of gives me something that's not maybe uni related or work related, you know, anything else, to focus on' - Norwich Heritage Collective member.

'Getting a behind the scenes look at how the exhibition was curated and we went a few days before it opened, so they were putting up the work and that was really cool, talking to the curator at Norwich Castle as well.'- Norwich Heritage Collective member.

KTD projects, trips and visits have enabled participants to appreciate their own **local history and participate in development projects**:

'I'll tell you the main thing I've learnt is the Hanseatic League. I had no idea about it and until we started our current project. And it really opened my eyes to just how essential local trade has been throughout mainly the early medieval era'. Time Turners member, Kings Lynn.

'We got to do stuff about the seafront and we got to go inside the Winter Gardens as part of the lottery thing. And we got to go in there and talk about some of the stuff that we wanted to put in' - YMCA client (Great Yarmouth Heritage Collective)

Co delivery with Norfolk Information and library Service (NLIS) and other partners has enabled possibilities and facilitated access to their different sites, collections and archives.

'Last week we went to the Forum, to the library, and we had a session where we could handle objects in the Queer Norfolk Collection...it was a really great opportunity that I might not have thought about getting if I hadn't joined the collective'. Norwich Heritage Collective member.

Through Kick the Dust groups, participants are **signposted to opportunities**, such as training, jobs, volunteering & work experience within the service and beyond e.g. through the Museums Development South-East (MDSE) network: 'I'm shadowing a session with the learning team with Key Stage 2, like an Ancient Egyptians session where the schools will come in next Friday. And I'm really excited myself just to see what they learn or what happens in those kinds of sessions.' Norwich Heritage Collective member.

Participants **personal development** remains at the heart of what we do: (National Saturday Club) 'Instead of it being like, full on, like, you have to, you have to, it's like you can do.' – 'It's a place where I come to get away from the stress of studying, really. I know I'm not going to be thinking about anything like that when I'm here, so it's quite relaxing'.

'I'm from Norfolk and I live at home, but last year I took a break from uni. I took a year out and I found that quite isolating...I just felt quite stuck for a bit with how to meet people my age and so I thought I'd give it a go and see...going to the Heritage Collective first was like a slowly kind of getting myself back into learning, but also socialising with people my age.' - NHC2 'Just being able to sit, communicate and knowing that your feelings are validated, that's a skill that I've learned very, very well'. — 'Coming to Kick the Dust is therapy. I'm able to come in, talk about whatever, go home and then be like, okay, well, now I'm so excited for next week'. YMCA client (Great Yarmouth Heritage Collective)

7. Visitor figures

Visitor figures for the period will be circulated at the meeting

8. Recommendations:

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report

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TRUE'S YARD FISHERFOLK MUSEUM REPORT

Report by Museum Curator

September 2025

1. Temporary exhibitions and events at True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum

1.1 Exhibition Programme.

So far we have hosted 4 temporary exhibitions: Community Art, Discover Hanse, The History of the Timber Trade in King's Lynn and Art in the Yard.

Coming up

- Opening 1st November: An exhibition in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Great Gale of 1875.
- Christmas Tree Decorations throughout History

1.2 Summer Art Exhibition

Once again this summer art exhibition has been a success and in no small part to the team of volunteer stewards and the artists connected to the Museum who produced some incredible work.

We are in the process of organising some art workshops for the autumn.

1.3 True's Talks

Our autumn programme will launch on 25th September and will run to 13th November. 8 talks all by local speakers. Subjects include medical care in WW1, Art and the Industrial Revolution, how museum exhibitions have evolved over time and more. All talks will take place on Thursdays between 1pm and 2pm. They remain free to attend and are being streamed online via Zoom, which can be booked via the Museum's TicketTailor page. https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thenorthendtrust

1.4 Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture 13th November at King's Lynn Town Hall.

The 11th Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture will be on the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Great Gale of 1875 (150 years) in which the Scottish fishing fleet off East Anglia lost 5 boats and Lynn citizens were involved in the retrieval and burial of eight Fife fishermen. With Council support we are currently reconnecting with the fishing communities in eastern Scotland.

1.5 A Victorian Experience: North End Guided Walks Programme

We relaunched our rebranded North End Guided Walks in June as 'A Victorian Experience' and we now have an online booking system for our walks. Tours on

Wednesday and Friday 13:00-14:30. Take up has improved from the previous year but we are still looking to develop this walks further. One avenue is incorporating local performers as with much of the Old North End and we are currently holding meetings to discuss this possibility.

Other Museum Developments

2. Events

5th September Dr Anderson's fundraising Garden Party 14th September Heritage Open Day From 25th Sept True's Talks autumn series

October

18th October Fish 'N' Chips (FOTY)

October half term Halloween Children's Activities

November

4th November TYFM Dinner at Duke's Head Hotel in memory of Sailors and Fisherfolk 13th Nov Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture at King's Lynn Town Hall 29th November Ghost Hunt

3. Fundraisers

3.1 The Mayor's Charity of the Year

We are grateful to the Former Mayor Cllr Paul Bland for his support and selecting us alongside the King's Lynn Sea Cadets his 2024/25 as his chosen charities. Having now received the funds raised we are planning to put them to good use. One project is extending our timeline as it currently ends in 2012. With so much happening 2013-2025 we are looking for suggestions for major historical events nationally, in King's Lynn and the North End.

3.2 Friends of True's Yard

We are most fortunate to have an active and supportive Friends group. They have recently helped the Museum with funds towards are emergency electrical repairs and a new coffee machine.

4. Partnerships

4.1 Hardwick Road Cemetery

Our staff and volunteers have stepped up to help the Friends of Hardwick Road Cemetery from dissolving and we're working on more collaborative activities between the two sites including the 150th anniversary of the Great Gale.

5. Learning and Outreach

5.1. Activities

Summer Holiday Activity Days

Previously, like many museums we utilised a drop in model for our activity days but after feedback we decided to change tactics. The majority of attendees were arriving at the same

times resulting in families having to wait for activities to be available. To combat this we decided have capped bookable spaces for our morning and afternoon sessions. We have had excellent feedback so far for this new system as children were able to get more of a qualitative experience and it had less of a conveyer belt feel. We've also changed up our content with archaeology, Japanese art, cave art, LEGO and games.

5.2 Oral History Project- Capturing Memories

Our Oral History Committee is hard at work capturing new oral histories and so far 20 new stories have been recorded (last report 19) but the focus has been largely on cataloguing and organising the existing collection into the same format.

5.3 Social Media

Currently the Museum's Facebook page has 2.5k followers; Instagram 496 Followers (last report 475). Our TikTok has 272 followers (202 last report). We are slowly making the transition from Twitter to Blue Sky.

6 Visitor Numbers

Visitor Numbers for the year 24/25: 11,701.

7 Resource Implications

Grants

Mayor's Charity 2024/2025

8 Recommendations

That the Area Committee note the report.

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Stories of Lynn and Tourist Information Centre Visitor Figures

Stories of Lynn

Month	Total entries	Cumulative	Schools	
Jun-25	549	1909	266	
Jul-25	754	2663	183	
Aug-25	1017	3680	0	

Tourist Information Centre

Month	In Person Enquiry	Telephone Enquiry	Email Enquiry	Overseas Visitors	Pontoon Enquiry	Accommodation Enquiry	Tourism Pack sent out
Jun-25	1152	191	33	3	17	2	16
Jul-25	1346	146	26	2	33	2	14
Aug-25	1284	154	24	34	41	3	14